



**State Representative  
Jack Cera**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FEB. 26, 2013

Contact: Pam Wilson, Legislative Aide (614) 466-3735

### **Rep. Cera Introduces Hire Ohio Legislation**

*Shale industry to benefit through tax incentives for hiring Ohioans*

COLUMBUS – State Representative Jack Cera (D-Bellaire) recently introduced legislation that promotes Ohio workers by establishing a nonrefundable commercial activity tax (CAT) credit for companies who hire Ohio residents or dislocated workers for oil and gas production services. House Bill 63 is a reintroduced version of legislation Rep. Cera offered last General Assembly.

House Bill 63 allows owners of horizontal wells and other companies performing drilling, pipeline transportation, processing or horizontal well construction services to apply for the CAT credit. Companies are eligible to receive up to \$2,500 for each Ohio resident employed full-time for work related to the well or the extracted oil and gas.

“Last year the Governor stated he wanted to encourage companies to hire Ohioans,” said Rep. Cera. “My bill provides an incentive to do just that. We have many highly trained, skilled workers in our area of the state and I hope HB 63 encourages the energy industry to take note and hire locally as shale development moves forward.”

To be eligible for the credit, companies must employ citizens for at least three consecutive months at a rate of pay equal to or greater than 250% of the federal minimum wage. The new workers must have completed a federally registered apprenticeship program at the time of hiring.