



DAVE YOST

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Administration
Office 614-728-5458
Fax 614-466-5087

February 7, 2025

J.P. Nauseef
President and CEO, JobsOhio
41 S. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Extension of JobsOhio lease on liquor profits

Dear Mr. Nauseef:

I am aware that a request seeking an extension of JobsOhio's Franchise and Transfer Agreement is scheduled to go before the Controlling Board on Wednesday, February 12. The proposal will request to extend JobsOhio's initial 25-year lease to encompass an additional 15-year term for no additional consideration.

I have grave concerns that this is not a good deal for Ohioans.

The Controlling Board request states: "The amendment extends the franchise agreement as authorized by the General Assembly under the same terms authorized in the original agreement." It appears to me that this description is inaccurate.

To be sure, *most* of the proposed terms do seem consistent with the original agreement, but not all: The original agreement required JobsOhio to make an upfront payment of roughly \$1.4 billion to become the sole franchisee and the recipient of the state's liquor profits — a one-time right *that was to expire at the end of the 25-year agreement period*.

After reviewing the current amendment to extend the deal by an additional 15 years, it appears to me JobsOhio is required to pay **nothing** for a 15-year extension of this limited, one-time franchise. How is it in the best interest of the people of Ohio to extend such a valuable franchise under these circumstances?

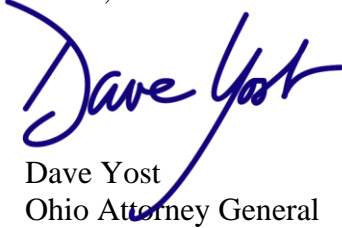
Earlier this week my office scheduled a meeting for Friday, February 7 with JobsOhio to better understand your position. I learned yesterday that JobsOhio canceled the meeting and apparently cannot reschedule before next week's Controlling Board meeting.

I am requesting that you delay the adoption of this measure until we have had an opportunity to more fully discuss the matter and its implications for Ohioans. The statute authorizing this extension requires the approval of JobsOhio to proceed, so it is within your ability to delay this matter in the interest of public trust and transparency.

There may be significant wisdom extending this agreement, and perhaps there are even reasons for the one-sided terms that are not readily apparent. If so, I would like to learn about them. But 15 years is a long time, and the people of Ohio deserve proper consideration and a full explanation.

This matter should be tabled for now, and I request that you do so.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Yost". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General

cc: Kim Murnieks, Director, Office of Budget Management
Sheryl Maxfield, Director, Ohio Department of Commerce
Controlling Board Members