



## **State Officials Canvas Area, Attend Business Roundtable**

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

By Bobby Warren

WOOSTER -- With Gov. John Kasich in nearby Medina for his State of the State address Monday night, a number of state officials canvassed the area earlier in the day, including Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor.

Taylor stopped by the Wayne County Public Library's downtown branch for a business roundtable. She was joined by Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation Administrator Steve Buehrer, JobsOhio CEO John Minor and Ohio Development Services Agency Assistant Director Ryan Burgess. State Rep. Ron Amstutz welcomed the contingent to Wayne County.

Since becoming lieutenant governor, Taylor has headed up the Common Sense Initiative, aka CSI: Ohio, a program designed to make the state's regulations more business-friendly and less costly.

"You are our customers," she said. "We need to be responsive to our customers."

Among the things the state has done is to work with the Cleveland Clinic to hire more nurses by making it easier for veterans who performed similar duties in the military to become licensed and to keep top medical researchers in Ohio.

Buehrer, who is a former state legislator and small business owner, said he was in the same position as many in attendance.

After Kasich was elected, he called Buehrer, who worked alongside Taylor in the Ohio House of Representatives, to offer him the BWC position. Buehrer recalled the conversation, saying Kasich wanted the bureau to be more business-friendly. "It's amazing to see what has happened," he said.

While low rates are good, Buehrer said it's important they be predictable and consistent for business owners. Over the past three years, premiums in total have dropped \$224 million, and the agency has cut about \$80 million in overhead.

Kasich announced about a year ago the Billion Dollar Back program, in which \$1 billion was being returned to businesses. Checks were sent to about 200,000 businesses. The average check was \$4,000, with the smallest being \$5 and the largest being \$6 million, Buehrer said.

The governor not only wants to help businesses, but workers, too, which is why the amount of the safety grants increased from \$5 million to \$15 million.

**Article continued here:** <http://www.the-daily-record.com/local%20news/2014/02/25/state-officials-canvas-area-attend-business-roundtable>

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