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CSI Ohio Works to Repeal Costly Business Regulation

Columbus – Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor today said a pending change to state liquor laws could allow Ohio food manufacturers to be more competitive and create jobs. Taylor’s comments were delivered by Mark Hamlin, Director of Regulatory Policy for CSI Ohio: The Common Sense Initiative, during a legislative hearing on Senate Bill 73 (Manning).

At issue is Custom Culinary, an Avon-based food manufacturer prohibited by state law from purchasing alcohol products in bulk. Instead, Custom Culinary is required to purchase alcohol at higher, retail prices and add them bottle-by-bottle to certain recipes, putting them at a competitive disadvantage. In one instance, employees uncorked 140,000 pounds of merlot wine for just one sauce. The burdensome regulation is causing the company to think twice about plans to expand and possibly create an estimated 60 new jobs.

“While there is no guarantee that passing Senate Bill 73 will lead to these jobs being created in Lorain County, we can be pretty sure that as the law stands today, those jobs will go to one of the company’s out-of-state competitors,” Hamlin said on Taylor’s behalf during a meeting of the Ohio House State Government and Elections Committee.

If enacted, S.B. 73 would allow Ohio manufacturers of food products to purchase alcohol at wholesale prices, saving time and money.

CSI Ohio was launched on January 10, 2011 by Gov. John R. Kasich to reform Ohio’s regulatory policies to help make Ohio a jobs and business-friendly state. CSI Ohio will review Ohio’s regulatory system to eliminate excessive and duplicative rules and regulations that stand in the way of job creation.

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