

NEWS RELEASE

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Wilmington Determined to Rebuild in Wake of DHL Announcement *Hopes to Retain DHL International Business at Wilmington Air Park*

WILMINGTON, OHIO – Following today's announcement that DHL Express is exiting the U.S. domestic express delivery market, the Economic Task Force for the DHL Hub in Wilmington said that it hopes to retain DHL's international business at the Wilmington Air Park and is encouraged that part of the \$3.9 billion allocated to DHL restructuring could be used to help rebuild the local economy here.

"Because DHL has not announced an agreement with UPS, some element of hope remains for DHL to continue using Wilmington as the U.S. hub for its international operations," said Wilmington Mayor David Raizk, who co-chairs the task force. "We also expect that DHL will continue to act as a good corporate citizen in helping us mitigate the effects of the restructuring on our local communities."

Regardless of DHL's ultimate actions, the task force is determined to rebuild the local economy. "Wilmington is not going to become a ghost town," Raizk said. "We're facing hard times, but we'll pull together as a community, and with neighbors helping neighbors we will create a more diversified economy with good jobs available to our citizens in the future."

He said the current priority is supporting affected workers while they transition to new jobs and careers. "Because this is the largest single job loss ever to hit a small community, it's easy to get tied up in numbers," he said. "But these are not just numbers on a page – they're our neighbors and friends. They're wondering how they'll pay their mortgages, put food on the table and send their kids to college – and we're going to do all that is in our power to help."

Clinton County Commissioner Randy Riley, who chairs the communications and outreach committee, emphasized that the task force has been preparing for such an announcement by putting in place support systems for affected workers. "We have been working proactively to help displaced workers find new jobs and retrain for new careers," he said. "We have been pre-approved for a \$6.7 million National Emergency Grant to support employment and training services for employees who lose their jobs and will continue working with Ohio and federal officials to craft economically feasible redevelopment solutions for the regional economy."

About The Economic Task Force for the DHL Hub in Wilmington

The Economic Task Force for the DHL Hub in Wilmington comprises government officials from the city, county, state and national levels, along with representatives from ABX Air, Inc. and ASTAR Air Cargo, community members and business officials, and is co-convened by Ohio Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher and Wilmington Mayor David Raizk. The group was organized in response to DHL's negotiations with UPS to take over DHL's air carrier operations and effectively shut down the Wilmington Air Park. The Economic Task Force has commenced work to preserve jobs and

craft economically feasible solutions stemming from the potential direct loss of 8,200 area jobs – with significantly more indirect job losses – in Wilmington and an eight-county region in southwest Ohio. The projected economic impact of the job losses exceeds \$400 million annually.