

NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECONOMIC TASK FORCE FOR DHL HUB IN WILMINGTON COMMITTED TO
JOBS, FUTURE

WILMINGTON - A broad-based task force spearheaded by Wilmington Mayor David Raizk, formed today with the support of Ohio Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher, 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 Ohio, the region and the community.

“DHL’s May 28th announcement that it is negotiating with its competitor United Parcel Service (UPS) to have UPS replace DHL’s U.S. airlift and hub operations based in Wilmington has sent a shockwave through our region, and across the state,” said Mayor Raizk. “We are committed to presenting DHL with a workable solution that includes maintaining its hub in Wilmington, while also addressing its U.S. cost and competitive concerns.”

The task force will identify strategies to save money—and make money—for DHL. The groups represented on the task force appreciate DHL’s key role as a corporate citizen in the Wilmington area, and they are collectively inviting DHL to participate in meaningful and creative discussions to find the best possible solution for the company and the citizens of the region. The group’s primary focus is on job preservation, but it is also considering scenarios that might require assistance for displaced workers and job replacement.

With the unity of the entire community as a force to help drive change that can benefit regional economy and retain community benefits, the task force will bring all critical stakeholders together at one table.

“The economic impact of a possible loss of at least 8,200 jobs is a significant and real fear for our community, and it merits an all-hands-on-deck approach,” said Clinton County Commissioner Randy Riley. An economic impact study is underway to quantify that impact, which may include the impact on other local businesses, employee wages, and tax revenues that support Wilmington Public Schools, Clinton and surrounding counties, and Wilmington itself.

“Across America, you hear stories like this,” said Mike Rector, a Highland County commissioner. “What’s different about this announcement is that the loss, if it comes to pass, would hit this area hard. The growth of the DHL facility has provided jobs and

community benefits for the entire area. We've worked hard to make the air park successful, and losing it would be devastating."

Based upon 2006 data, the DHL air park is the largest employer in a six-county southwestern Ohio area that includes Clinton, Fayette, Highland, Brown, Ross and Adams counties. Air park employees come from 45 of Ohio's 88 counties.

"Every child attending a Wilmington school is either the child of an air park employee, or their best friend's dad or mom works there," said Ron Sexton, superintendent of Wilmington schools. "I've been here for 28 years. This town has been through things like this before. Our schools will always partner with the community and be here to make sure that our students are prepared for the future."

Mayor Raizk noted that "There are a lot of huge numbers at issue here, but in the end it's about people. We're talking about real people that could be facing a real crisis. The main issue is how we avert this crisis, and how we protect the real families in this region."

Members of the new task force include representatives of federal, state, county and local governments, other community leaders and local business representatives, and representatives of ABX Air and ASTAR, which together account for the majority of jobs at the air park.

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