



CONTACT: Alex Rahn, PEDA  
Email: [info@peda.org](mailto:info@peda.org)  
Phone: 717.441.6047/ c-484-574-9445  
Fax: 717.236.2046

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **PEDA Applauds Governor Shapiro's Efforts to Bolster the Economy**

**Ridley Park, PA (February 12, 2024)** – The Pennsylvania Economic Development Association (PEDA) applauds Governor Josh Shapiro and his Administration's focus on economic development, as reflected in his [budget proposal](#) of last week, the release of a statewide [economic development strategy](#) last month, and his visit to Delaware County, today.

Governor Josh Shapiro delivered his FY2024-25 budget address on February 6<sup>th</sup> and key components of his speech focused on economic development. PEDA is also excited about the recently unveiled statewide economic development strategy, which the Governor highlighted during his address. This strategy, intended to guide the Commonwealth's efforts toward economic growth over the next 10 years, is the first of its kind in approximately 20 years and was developed through collaboration with economic development stakeholders, including members of PEDA, from across the state.

“Ohio has one-and-a-half million fewer people than Pennsylvania, yet they’ve invested over seven times more in economic development than we have. And you know what, their investment is paying off. And I’m sick and tired of losing to (sic) Ohio! We need to catch up,” stated Governor Shapiro.

“For the first time in nearly two decades, we have a plan to grow our economy, compete in today’s global marketplace, make our communities vibrant, and give every Pennsylvanian a real opportunity for a good paying, family sustaining career,” said Secretary Rick Siger, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. “Governor Shapiro knows that growing and strengthening our economy is the key to creating a better future for Pennsylvania — and that’s exactly what his proposed budget will do.”

Today, the Governor visited small, locally-owned businesses in Delaware County, as he highlighted his proposed \$25 million investment into Main Streets that foster vibrant communities across the Commonwealth. PEDA President and Commerce Director for Delaware County, Laura Goodrich Cairns, thanked Governor Shapiro for the focus of his address and his visit. “We appreciate the Governor’s commitment to economic development and for proposing an approach that highlights the diversity of Pennsylvania’s economy, addressing the need for qualified workers, and supporting entrepreneurs,” said Goodrich Cairns. “PEDA is excited about ensuring organizations, such as those that comprise our membership, have the tools needed to retain and recruit employers and we look forward to working with the Administration and the General Assembly – throughout the budget process – to support the Governor’s focus on economic development.”

## **About Pennsylvania Economic Development Association**

PEDA's mission is to promote sound economic development policies, provide leading-edge economic development education and nurture an effective statewide economic development network to foster the economic growth of the Commonwealth.

PEDA's membership is comprised of county and regional economic developers, state government economic development employees, workforce development professionals, utility and transportation executives, industrial development authority directors, industrial and technology incubator operators, chamber of commerce executives, municipal directors of community and economic development, engineering and construction executives, economic development finance professionals, commercial and industrial developers, and local, county and state elected officials. For further information, visit [www.peda.org](http://www.peda.org).

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