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December 30, 2002

Dear Reader:

The Ohio Legislative Service Commission is pleased to present *Ohio Facts*. Now in its fourth edition, this booklet was developed to address frequently asked questions and to provide a broad overview of public finance in Ohio. Highlighted areas range from the comparative state of Ohio's economy, to its schools, justice systems, health and human services, transportation, and environment.

In all instances, researchers have used the most up-to-date data available. Readers who would like to review the original data sources used will find them listed at the end of the on-line version of *Ohio Facts*. Our hope is that *Ohio Facts* will serve as a quick and valuable reference tool for legislators, agencies, and all persons interested in the financial state of Ohio.

If you have questions about any of the information contained in *Ohio Facts*, please call our office at (614) 466-3615.

Sincerely,

James W. Burley
Director