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# Ohio Chamber Foundation Study Identifies Opportunities to Strengthen Ohio's Digital Infrastructure

***COLUMBUS, OHIO –*** The Ohio Chamber of Commerce today released a new study examining the Ohio Internet Exchange (Ohio IX) and outlining how Ohio can strengthen its internet infrastructure to better support businesses and remain competitive in an increasingly digital economy.

Commissioned by the Ohio Chamber Research Foundation, *The Case for Investing in Ohio IX*examines the exchange's current capabilities, opportunities to expand its reach and the investments needed to position it for future growth.

"Digital infrastructure is becoming just as important to Ohio's competitiveness as our roads, bridges, energy and water systems," said Ohio Chamber President & CEO Steve Stivers. "Businesses across our state depend on reliable, high-performance connectivity to operate, serve their customers and compete. We want to make sure Ohio has the infrastructure in place to support those needs as technology continues to evolve."

An internet exchange allows different networks to connect and exchange internet traffic directly. Ohio IX helps keep more of that traffic within the state rather than routing it through out-of-state hubs, improving efficiency and potentially reducing costs for participating networks.

The study finds that Ohio IX has an established foundation, with 61 member networks across 16 facilities. Its switching capacity has grown 244% since 2019. The exchange also supports access networks reaching approximately 4.5 million Ohio households and 155,000 businesses across 83 counties.

The report estimates that Ohio IX generates approximately $2.5 million in annual savings on internet transit costs for Ohio internet service providers using the exchange, compared with approximately $100,000 in total annual membership fees.

Despite that progress, the study identifies opportunities to expand Ohio IX's membership, strengthen its operations and extend its reach beyond central Ohio. In particular, attracting more content providers, cloud companies and enterprise members could help the exchange better support the growing demand for hybrid cloud computing and artificial intelligence applications.

The study outlines a phased approach to building on Ohio IX's existing capabilities. Recommendations include adding dedicated technical and business development staff, expanding infrastructure and connectivity to other Ohio markets and attracting new network members. The report also examines potential funding and partnership opportunities to support that growth.

The study was discussed during a press conference at the Ohio Chamber of Commerce featuring leaders from the Ohio Chamber, JobsOhio and BroadbandOhio.

View the full report here.

*The Ohio Chamber is the state's leading business advocate and represents thousands of companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.*

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