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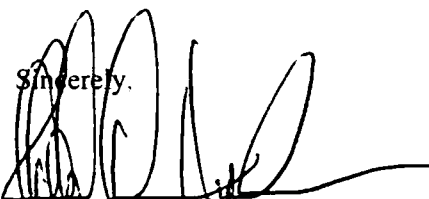
Ms. Ronda Watson Barber
917 Glenmore Avenue
Newark, OH 43055

Dear Ms. Barber:

This letter is in response to your inquiry regarding the state's Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity (EDGE) program as it relates to the school building construction project underway in the Newark City School District.

The Newark City Schools building program was approved under the Ohio School Facilities Commission's Expedited Local Partnership Program (ELPP). ELPP school districts receive no state money. At the time state funding becomes available through the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP), districts receive credit against their required local contribution for the work completed under the ELPP program. The ELPP program is designed to give districts not yet eligible to participate in the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (which does provide state funding) the opportunity to move ahead with portions of their building project using local funding.

Because there is no state funding involved, school districts that are part of the ELPP program follow their internal bidding process and are not subject to the requirements of the EDGE program. I would, therefore, like to clarify that the Newark City Schools building program will not be required by OSFC to incorporate the EDGE goals in buildings that are constructed under their participation in ELPP. It is strictly a local school district decision whether or not to incorporate a socially and economically disadvantaged business program into its ELPP building project.

Sincerely,


Richard M. Hickman
Ohio School Facilities Commission

cc: Leonard Hubert, Director of External Affairs, Office of the Governor
Cheryl Lyman, Chief of Support Services, OSFC
Bill Prenosil, Planning Director, OSFC
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