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**Statement from Fred Frecker, President of Flexible Pavements of Ohio, on the
Neutral Third Party Report to the Pavement Selection Advisory Council**

Flexible Pavements of Ohio is pleased to have participated in the Pavement Selection Advisory Council process with our counterparts from the concrete paving industry, professionals appointed by the Legislature and Ohio Department of Transportation leadership. House Bill 87 mandated that this council select a neutral third party to review the process by which ODOT selects pavement types for its projects. The third party was also asked to compare Ohio's practices with those of other states, the Federal Highway Administration and the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials.

The report presented to the council by the neutral third party on November 6 calls ODOT's current pavement selection process innovative and objective. It further shows that Ohio is in line with best practices of most states examined in the study. The asphalt industry welcomes the improvements suggested in the report which will enhance an already progressive system designed to ensure that Ohio tax dollars are spent on the best pavement for each job.

The third party report supports our conviction that pavement selection is best left to professional engineers who understand the science and history of pavement performance. The number one recommendation made by the third party is a call for increased communication and cooperation between industries, and a toning down of the rhetoric. We wholeheartedly agree and look forward to a less heated competitive environment in Ohio.

The neutral third party, a group of professional engineers with no vested interest in Ohio policies, never questions the ethics of ODOT's pavement selection process. It is our hope that this information and the results of a recent Inspector General's investigation clearing ODOT of charges of impropriety will end suggestions that the pavement selection process is based on anything other than engineering principles and the professional opinion of veteran engineers.

As always, the asphalt industry will continue to view ODOT as its number one customer, and in doing so will further adapt our product to suit its specifications should they change as a result of this process.