PRESS RELEASE

RE: Belmont County DOD/CIC Leadership Announcement

Contact: Sue Douglass, Executive Director (740-695-9678)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Belmont County Department of Development Community Improvement Corporation announces that Sue Douglass is now the Executive Director of the DOD / CIC, effective immediately. Douglass has been the Associate Director since January of 2008. She fills vacancies left by Eva Lunder and Jason Stanford.

"This is a wonderful extension of the opportunity to work with the CIC in meeting the challenges facing the economic development of Belmont County", said Douglass. Terry Lee, President of the DOD/CIC made the official announcement on behalf of the CIC Board of Trustees. "We continue to have faith in Sue's ability to be a leader in the county, moving it forward and working with the CIC".

The DOD / CIC has been in existence since 1964 as a non-profit organization dedicated to leading the economic development of Belmont County. One of its primary functions is as the legal land agent for the Fox Commerce Park business sites. To date, that 125 acre industrial park has 7 operating businesses, with approximately 180 jobs.

In addition to managing FCP development, the DOD/CIC continues to be a prime point of contact for all business development in the county. The office is the facilitator for commercial activity and serves any size or type of business. It provides connections to a variety of private and public resources who offer a wide-range of options and services.

"We strive to be of assistance to any size of business operator. One major function we have is to provide information and professional assistance for anyone wishing to start, expand, or modify a business. Our list of contacts is extensive, as is our network of people and places for our clients to get the help they require", explained Douglass. She emphasizes those services apply to keeping current and established business healthy and viable, especially in these difficult times. "While we are always alert to new and incoming business ventures, there is no way we want to neglect the established businesses. Very often these are the backbone of our economy".

The DOD/CIC Board approved a positive and energetic preliminary plan for the 2009 year economic development. Specific items and plans will be announced as they are finalized. General information can be accessed on the website www.aplacetogrowyourbusiness.com and by calling the office at 740-695-9678.