

Dan McCarthy

1110 Neil Ave
Columbus, Oh 43201

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Governor, State of Ohio
The Statehouse
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor,

The most exciting, challenging and memorable job left me with two indelible memories. The first came in the earliest days of your term when the team was being briefed about the shortfall in Ohio's transportation budget. In my mind I was already working through a two to three year strategy because I figured no one was going to be ready to tackle this big and hard of an issue right out of the gate. That changed quickly when you sat down in the meeting and told us that you ran to be Governor to make the hard decisions and that if we needed to get this fixed then we were going to do it now. My second memory is the afternoon of the Arnold decision. The office was buzzing about this possible threat we were all trying to understand. I remember the senior staff sitting in your office when you took decisive action to protect public health. We were taken aback until you explained to us the awesome responsibility invested in the Governor to make life and death decisions. Those two days summed up the last two and a half years in the DeWine administration - if there's a problem fix it and don't hesitate to make the hard decisions.

There are, of course, so many other great memories. On the professional side, being part of great team that worked to advance your agenda of investment has been the opportunity of a lifetime. Knowing that the least among us, particularly children, have been the focus of your attention and benefitted from your action is incredibly rewarding. The investment in the the foster care system, the focus on the emotional needs of kids in school, and the life changing outcomes that OhioRise will provide are reasons enough to be proud to be part of the DeWine administration. But there is so much more too: H2Ohio, the incredible and far reaching investments in Ohio's roads, bridges and infrastructure, the promise of broadband development in Ohio's rural areas, the investment in a robust system to care for the addicted and mentally ill. I am deeply appreciative of your leadership and so proud and thankful to have been a member of your team.

On a personal level, I can't say thank you enough for the role models that you and Mrs. DeWine are for all of us. The mutual love and grace with which you treat each other despite the incredible pressures of being the Governor and First Lady teach us all what is possible when love and respect are at the foundation of a relationship. From the moment you shared the light of your experience in my family's darkest time you have modeled what it is

to be a loving husband and father. Nikki and I are forever grateful for your impact on our family.

But, as with any intense experience, there is a time to take a break. Before taking this job, I talked to five of my predecessors in this role and they all told me to make a one year commitment and definitely not more than two because of the pace and grind. They were right. I know I've run quite a bit over my two year commitment but I think now is the right time to resign as your Legislative Director.

Governor, it's been the ride of a lifetime. And although I am really sad at the thought of not being with you and the team I can go to sleep every night knowing that for a moment in time my professional life had real meaning and I was able to make a difference in people's lives. Thank you so much for that gift. I will always be in your service.

Warmest regards,

Dan McCarthy