



The Youngstown Vindicator

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

First step to 'Tech Belt'

U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan said a partnership between agencies in Cleveland and Pittsburgh to attract venture capital to the two cities' medical manufacturing and bio-technological industries should also include Youngstown, Warren and Akron. BioEnterprise of Cleveland and the Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse announced the partnership Tuesday.

Ryan, of Niles, D-17th, sees the announcement as the first step toward creating a "Tech Belt" that not only takes in Cleveland and Pittsburgh, but also the cities between them.

Ryan is calling for a regional summit of leaders from local industries, elected officials and economic development organizations to create an economic advancement model for the area.

There are more than 700 bio-science companies in the Cleveland-Akron-Youngstown-Pittsburgh corridor employing more than 25,000 people, Ryan said.