

PR# 00-0627A

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

June 27, 2000

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LOCAL OFFICIAL INVITED TO GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR BILL SIGNING

(COLUMBUS, OH) – Allen County Emergency Management Agency director, Russell J. Decker will be one of two county EMA directors invited to Governor Bob Taft's office for the signing of SB239 on July 6, 2000.

SB239 will provide \$1 million of state funds for Ohio's county EMA programs in state fiscal year 2001. Senator Bob Cupp (R-Lima) introduced the measure at the request of Director Decker. Allen County state representative John Williamowski was a co-sponsor of the bill. The legislation earmarks grants of up to \$25,000 for Ohio's 25 most economically disadvantaged counties and then provides for the remaining funds to be made available to the remaining county EMAs.

Decker will be joined at the signing ceremony by fellow director J. R. Thomas of Franklin County, president of the Emergency Management Association of Ohio, and Senator Bob Cupp. The measure was supported by the Emergency Management Association of Ohio, the County Commissioners Association of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Public Safety.