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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC Summit on Sustainability Showcases Six Dynamic Local Food Entrepreneurs

(Columbus – August 17, 2016) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Summit on Sustainability: Feeding our Economy will showcase six dynamic local food entrepreneurs on Friday, October 21, 2016 at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. In the Pecha Kucha style format, each luncheon speaker will share sustainable practices related to food production, sourcing, processing, packaging, and distribution and other unique aspects related to the local food supply chain.

Tom Pendrey: Chief Operating Officer, Donatos - Pendrey's career has covered over 25 years in the consumer products and service industries. As the Chief Operating Officer of Donatos Pizza, Pendrey oversees the 156 store restaurant business and franchise expansion.

Abed Al Shahal: Co-Director, Columbus Growing Collective – is dedicated to advocating sustainable food production, food accessibility, and public education about the implications (health, environmental, social, and economic) surrounding food choices.

Bryn Bird: Director, Canal Market District - The Canal Market District isn't just about finding fresh, local produce. It's about building relationships with the people that make up the community. Bringing healthy, affordable, and locally produced food to the community is central to revitalization and the economic development of Newark and Licking County as a whole.

Glen Courtright: President and Founder, EnviroFlight - Courtright and his company, EnviroFlight, harness the natural behavior of Black Soldier Fly Larvae to feed a rapidly expanding global population. Courtright discovered that the Black Soldier Fly Larvae could be utilized as a protein source for aquaculture and livestock while reducing global need for fishmeal.

Matt Habash: Executive Director, Mid-Ohio Foodbank - Habash assumes an influential role in the Food Bank industry, leading Feeding America's national initiative to recover an additional one billion pounds a year of fresh produce that does not make it to market.

Ryan Lang: Co-Founder and Master Distiller, Middle West Spirits - Lang has been the Co-Founder and Master Distiller at Middle West Spirits since 2008. During his tenure, Middle West Spirits has matured from a small craft producer to one of the largest midcap distilleries in the US. Middle West was named US Distillery of the year at one of Europe's largest spirits conventions, the Berlin Spirits Expo in 2016.

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Working to Build a Better Region

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The annual Summit on Sustainability is MORPC's signature environmental conference developed to aid community leaders, businesses, and individuals in going green. The event brings hundreds of people together to explore and share sustainable solutions. This year's theme, ***Feeding Our Economy***, will focus on sharing best practices that can be applied by local communities, regions, and businesses to enhance the built environment in which we live. The Green Region awards will also be presented at the luncheon.

Visit www.morpc.org/summit for more information on registration and sponsorship opportunities contact Amanda McEldowney, amceldowney@morpc.org or 614.233.4112.

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The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is a voluntary association of local governments and regional organizations which envisions and embraces innovative directions in economic prosperity, energy, the environment, housing, land use, and transportation. Our transformative programming, services and innovative public policy are designed to promote and support the vitality and growth in the region.