



House Finance - Agriculture, Development & Natural Resources Subcommittee
Written Testimony in Support of H.B. 49
March 15, 2017

The four local development districts (“LDDs”), Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission, Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District, Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association, and Eastgate Regional Council of Governments serve Ohio’s 32 federally designated Appalachian counties. Ohio’s LDDs administer federal Appalachian Regional Commission (“ARC”) & the state’s Governor’s Office of Appalachia (“GOA”) grant programs across this region. In 2016, the LDDs administered 50 ARC projects with \$61,653,671 in total project costs which resulted in 748.5 new jobs and 1,782.5 jobs retained in the region.

The LDDs are cost-effective, efficient and focused on leveraging resources to meet the needs of the region. Ohio’s LDDs secured \$45 in direct Appalachian project dollars for every \$1 spent on administration. They help public and private sector leaders develop and implement programs and services that build strong regional economies and communities. The LDDs also provide comprehensive regional strategies for community and economic development.

Ohio’s LDDs support the flat funding proposed in H.B. 49 and ask that you retain this level of funding in the House Passed Version of the bill. We greatly appreciate the Development Services Agency’s acknowledgement of the districts’ work to fund community and economic development projects that improve the lives of many Ohioans. This funding will ensure that the LDDs can continue to increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of residents to work and succeed in Appalachian Ohio. H.B. 49 will also help the LDDs continue to invest in critical infrastructure, particularly broadband and transportation, including the Appalachian Development Highway System and water/wastewater systems. Our organizations are thankful for the continued support of the Governor’s Administration, the House Finance Committee and the House of Representatives for our work Ohio’s Appalachian region.

Respectfully Submitted,

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