



Mid-Ohio Regional
Planning Commission

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**William Murdock, Executive Director
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Written Proponent Testimony – House Bill 529
Ohio House Finance Committee
March 6, 2018**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Ryan, Ranking Member Cera, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written proponent testimony on House Bill (H.B. 529), the 2018-19 State Capital Budget.

My name is William Murdock and I am the Executive Director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). As the regional council for Central Ohio, MORPC is a voluntary association of over 60 political subdivisions and regional organizations in our region. MORPC's membership consists of cities, townships, counties, villages, and other government entities. Our policy stances reflects the collective voice of a very diverse group of local governments in a 15-county region. In fact, MORPC serves the fastest growing region in Ohio, which is expected to increase by up to one million people by 2050. We advocate for public policies on behalf of our members that foster economic prosperity, enhance the quality of life of our residents, and secure a competitive advantage for the region and state.

Since the fall of last year, we have worked closely with other regional agencies and partners to ensure the capital budget bill maximized economic and sustainable development for our growing region. We encouraged MORPC members to submit project requests to local state legislators and to the Columbus Region's community project prioritization process. We were pleased to see several priority projects included in the \$2.6 billion state capital budget and it is for these reasons that MORPC supports H.B. 529.

Please see some of the projects below that we were encouraged to see included in the bill.

Clean Ohio Fund

H.B. 529 appropriates \$100 million to the Clean Ohio Fund. The Clean Ohio Fund restores, protects, and connects Ohio's important natural and urban places. In addition, Clean Ohio preserves green space and farmland and improves outdoor recreation.

MORPC administers Clean Ohio funding for green space conservation projects in Franklin County through the District 3 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC). These projects preserve open spaces, sensitive ecological areas, and stream corridors.

Smart Transportation Technologies

Smart Columbus Experience Center \$500,000
Dublin Smart Community Connect Project \$150,000
Union County Automotive and Mobility Center \$1,500,000

MORPC advocates for policies and supports efforts that leverage Smart Columbus and the Northwest U.S. 33 Smart Mobility Corridor.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Matt Greeson
Chair

Rory McGuiness
Vice Chair

Karen J. Angelou
Secretary

Transportation Infrastructure

Rickenbacker Air Cargo Terminal 5 Ramp Expansion \$2,000,000

Investment from the state capital budget is critical for the region to maintain the infrastructure we have and build more for our growing region. Once expanded and fully operational, Air Cargo Terminal 5 will have a \$55 million annual economic impact handling imports and exports.

Trails

Ohio to Erie Trail Land Acquisition \$300,000

Concord Township History and Community Trail \$100,000

MORPC supports a balanced transportation system for its residents and results show that trails provide many values for residents. We support funding and policies that advance the Central Ohio Greenways (COG) which advocates for the enhanced development of a more interconnected regional trail network.

Although not every MORPC member project was included in the \$147 million in appropriations for community projects within the capital budget, we were pleased to see the projects that were.

Thank you for you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the state capital budget and please do not hesitate to contact me, at 614-233- 4101 or at wmurdock@morpc.org, with any questions or whenever MORPC can be of assistance.

Kind Regards,



William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission