



## LAWRENCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

P.O. Box 488  
South Point, Ohio 45680-0488  
PHONE 740-377-4550  
FAX 740-377-2091  
[www.lawrencecountyohio.org](http://www.lawrencecountyohio.org)

June 23, 2018

Honorable Representative Scott Ryan and Ohio House Finance Committee Members  
Ohio House of Representatives  
Ohio Statehouse  
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Dear Chairman Ryan and Members of the Ohio House Finance Committee:

I forward this letter as strong proponent testimony in favor of the pending House Bill and other legislation that helps to develop industrial and manufacturing infrastructure within the State of Ohio. The pending legislation will have an extremely positive influence on creating jobs in Ohio and especially in those rural areas that trail behind the urban communities in new job development.

As Executive Director of the Lawrence Economic Development Corporation, LEDC, we developed the Point Industrial Park, The Point. The development of the Point to its current status would not have been possible without the Rural Industrial Park assistance. That legislation was a large part of the assistance that partially supported two speculative shell buildings through a grant/low interest loan program. Today The Point has in excess of 700 jobs with 14 manufacturing and logistics plants. Those companies include Bimbo Bakeries, Engines of Ohio Inc., FedEx, Orica/Minova, JennMar-McSweeney, HarbisonWalker International, and many others. This industrial park and the construction campaign that initiated the development of those buildings would not have been possible without the Rural Ohio Industrial Park program.

Today, I can identify revenues coming into Ohio from personal income tax of those 700 employees and various CAT taxes being paid by those companies that far surpass the investments made by the Rural Industrial Par program. Additionally, hundreds of thousands are paid in real property taxes to the local schools that would come from Ohio General Fund through the Department of Education if those were not being paid locally. This program is a true investment in Ohio's future that will in a very few years pay back to Ohio 100% plus for the future.

Without question, this program is fundamental to the development of Appalachia and Northwest Ohio where you do not have the huge quantities of existing buildings to attract new investment. We find that the majority of companies want to go into industrial parks where everything is either build-ready or ready to finish out an existing building. I would recommend that the legislation allow support of both investment in the development of industrial parks and the building of speculative buildings and also place a large emphasis on providing some funds through a low interest loan program.

LEDC has invested in raw land in both Lawrence and Scioto Counties of Ohio to develop future industrial land for the purpose of creating jobs for the residents of those two Counties. Without a program such as this, that effort will be delayed. These funds can often be matched by federal

grants that leverage the investment to a point that greatly speeds up the returns to Ohio. Without these funds for federal match, most of our rural communities could never qualify for the federal grants and investment.

I will personally guarantee that if this legislation can be passed, LEDC will attempt to take advantage of it and if successful, will develop and construct facilities that within two decades will repay Ohio the funds invested with interest. As with the 700 employees now working in The Point, the long-term benefits to the families of Ohio and to Ohio itself are definitely available through you, our representatives, by approving this investment in Ohio and Ohio's residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill W. Dingus". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Bill Dingus, PhD.  
Executive Director