



The Honorable Louis W. Blessing
Ohio House of Representatives
13th Floor
77 S. High St.
Columbus, OH 43215

March 15, 2018

Dear Chairman Blessing

I am writing in support of H.B. 531, which would fund the Major Sporting Event Grant Program. I learned of the proposed legislation as a Board Member of the Greater Columbus Sports Commission. Additionally, I previously served two terms on the Experience Columbus board, chaired the Tourism Committee, and was three term President of Ohio Association of Car Rental Agencies (OACRA). As a lifelong stakeholder and champion of tourism I believe it important for Ohio to remain competitive in securing major sporting events. The economic impact for restaurants, hotels, and transportation companies is well documented. The benefits to the quality of life of the citizens of Ohio should not be overlooked. Lastly, whether "Brand" building for Ohio, Columbus or its other fine cities the hosting of major sporting events plays a significant role in those efforts. Thank you for your consideration on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Reynolds".

Michael A. Reynolds
Chairman