



Testimony in Support of House Bill 122 (Hambley - Rogers)
Before the House State and Local Government Committee
By William (Bill) Currin, Mayor, City of Hudson, Ohio (2003-2015)
Chairman, Northeastern Ohio Mayors and City Managers Association (2005-2010)

April 25, 2017

Chairman Anielski, Vice-Chairman Hambley, Ranking member Bishoff, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 122 that would establish a Regional Economic Development Study Committee to investigate the benefits of creating metropolitan economic development alliances.

My name is William (Bill) Currin and I am the Chairman of the NEOM&CMA's Regional Prosperity Initiative. I am also the former Mayor of Hudson, Ohio (2003-2015) and a former Chairman of the Northeastern Ohio Mayors and City Managers Association (2005-2010).

I would like to thank the co-sponsors of House Bill 122, Representatives Steve Hambley and John Rogers, for introducing this important piece of legislation.

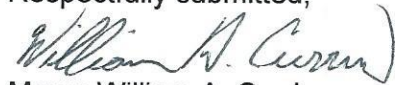
Collaborative metropolitan economic development has been shown to benefit all participating entities. The committee would study the features, benefits, and challenges involved in establishing metropolitan economic development alliances that would incentivize cooperation, enhance success, and provide for greater efficiency in economic development among participating municipal corporations, namely in metropolitan areas. The committee may also consider the process and structure of such alliances and review legislative proposals. In completing its study, the committee shall consult with various groups, including county commissioners, township trustees, mayors, city council members, members of statewide and metropolitan organizations, and members of chambers of commerce.

The proposed committee would be bipartisan and will consist of members from the Ohio House of Representatives, the Ohio Senate, a designee of the Governor, academic representatives, and a representative from the Regional Prosperity Initiative. The committee will submit a report of its findings within one year of the effective date of the bill.

I want to stress that this bill does nothing more than create a study committee. It creates no obligations for local governments. Furthermore the study will show whether this program would be beneficial or unfavorable to Ohio; action taken past the study would require different legislation. This legislation is wholeheartedly supported by the Northeastern Ohio Mayors and City Managers Association.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. We are available for any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor William A. Currin

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New Growth Projections with Fully Applied EDAs:

Projected Growth in Commercial and Industrial Value, 2006-2026

