

Dear elected officials,

I am speaking today to provide additional support for the Derek Merrin initiative tasking the State Health Department with implementation and oversight of a *state wide* lead paint program.

The Merrin Initiative is significantly improved from local programs as it brings the topic back to where it belongs, the safety and welfare of our *state's* children and seeks to achieve that through a broad partnership of policy that starts with these most important factor in a child's wellbeing, the parents and guardians. Through education and accountability, local and state agencies will be partnering with ALL potential areas of contamination...home owners, rental properties, public facilities, and adjacent commercial and industrial neighbors.

I live in Toledo, I invest in Toledo. My family is fed by the rental business I have created in Toledo. The City of Toledo's lead program differs from Derek Merrin's Initiative in that they are first and foremost seeking to generate income, by regulating a minority of the city housing stock "1-4 unit rental properties" and have precious little focus on education and accountability for PARENTS AND CARETAKERS, placing all the accountability on landlords for the cleanliness of their tenants.

Under Toledo's current program, I am being forced to clean my units ahead of a snap-shot-in-time lead wipe tests that are not addressing the root cause of exposure: daily cleanliness, parental control, and regular maintenance; only the opportunity for Toledo to license, permit, and fine the smallest our city businesses.

Please support Derek Merrin's initiative to place authority for lead paint mitigation where it belongs, at the state level with a single, simple and comprehensive program implemented consistently throughout our state.

Andrew R Fidler, CHMM
Property Manager/Owner
LaPlante Business Services Inc

(419)410-3836

afidler@laplantebs.com