



Ohio's "6119" Regional Water & Sewer Districts

June 15, 2017

Chairman Oelslager
Vice Chair Manning
Ranking Member Skindell
Members of the Senate Finance Committee

Re: Local Government Innovation Fund (LGIF) HB 49

Dear Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to provide written comments on behalf of the Coalition of Ohio Regional Districts (CORD) regarding the elimination of the Local Government Innovation Fund (LGIF) in HB 49.

The Coalition of Ohio Regional Districts (CORD) is a state-wide association of regional water, sewer and storm water districts established throughout Ohio under Chapter 6119 of the Ohio Revised Code. Districts provide potable water, sanitary sewer, and storm water services to over 1 million customers in the State of Ohio. CORD is opposed to the elimination of the LGIF Fund as provided in current HB 49.

Regional districts are established by local governments, including municipalities, counties, and townships to provide services across jurisdictional boundaries through partnering and the provision of shared services. They are a primary and important method by which local governments pool resources and efforts to achieve the provision of services. The LGIF Fund has been instrumental in providing both planning and construction assistance to regional districts. Both grant and loan funds provided by the LGIF have assisted in the payment for studies by regional agencies such as the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) seeking to determine the benefits of establishing regional districts, and helping to pay the costs of establishing regional districts to promote intergovernmental cooperation and shared resources. LGIF loan funds have also assisted with the construction of facilities. Attached is a list of some of the entities which have benefitted from LGIF grants and loans for planning and construction for water, sewer and storm water facilities. Additionally, it should be noted that Ohio, unlike many other states, is significantly lacking in financing options for planning utility projects. The LGIF Fund has been an important element of providing that assistance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Albers", is written over the typed name.

John Albers
Coalition of Ohio Regional Districts
Executive Committee Member

Attachment

1. TMACOG - \$100,000 Grant
2. Allen Water District - \$100,000 Grant, \$500,000 Loan, \$50,000 Grant
3. Eastern Ohio Regional Waste Water Authority - \$45,000 Grant
4. Northeastern Water and Sewer District - \$50,000 Grant
5. Jefferson County Water and Sewer District - \$50,000 Grant