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OHIO  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATION

April 30, 2019

Dear Chair Hambley and Members of the House Civil Justice Committee,

The Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA) is a non-partisan professional association that advocates on behalf of economic development practitioners. The OEDA focuses on the issues that are most important to growing Ohio's economy and, as such, OEDA members support H.B. 168.

Implementing a bona fide prospective purchase pathway for lightly contaminated properties encourages the remediation and development of sites that might otherwise go unused. This proposal aligns Ohio with federal law, as well as with neighboring states like Indiana and Michigan.

This legislation protects an otherwise innocent bona fide purchaser from liability for contamination. We believe H.B. 168 may potentially accelerate the cleanup and redevelopment of these lightly contaminated sites by providing a bona fide purchaser with state level immunity if the purchaser follows the appropriate protocol, same as the federal immunity.

One of the most important factors in business attraction and business expansion is having a strong inventory of available sites. Through H.B. 168 Ohio can both increase the number of developable sites and help communities redevelop long-ago abandoned properties that often hold back overall economic development in an area. Nothing in this legislation prevents the cleanup and remediation of these lightly contaminated sites and the legislation does not remove or weaken any existing environmental regulations or laws.

The OEDA supports passing H.B. 168 as a common sense solution to encourage economic development.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jprice@ohioeda.com](mailto:jprice@ohioeda.com) or 614.506.1500.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Price  
Executive Director