

Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Dean, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan and Members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee.

I am writing in enthusiastic support of House Bill 220, allowing governmental entities to utilize distributed ledger technologies in the exercise of their authority.

My name is Doug McCollough, I am a technologist and I serve as the Chief Information Officer of the City of Dublin, Ohio. As a local government, we recognize that government operations are being disrupted, and that the role of local government will experience significant changes in the way it delivers services, conducts operations, and impacts the experiences of citizens, residents, businesses, and visitors. We are not so naive as to believe that the major technological shifts currently taking place that allow people to have products delivered to their home, make international video conference calls at the push of a button, or work from their homes, will not impact the way they experience their government.

The City of Dublin has been at the cutting edge of emerging technology adoption for many years. We have been awarded a Smart 21 or Top 7 designation from the Intelligent Community Forum 6 times, and have formed the Global Institute for the Study of the Intelligent Community in Dublin Ohio, an institute with the expressed goal of helping other cities in the State form an "Intelligent Ohio". We collaborate extensively in the region, partnering with the 33 Innovation Corridor Council of Governments and DriveOhio to form the 33 Smart Mobility Corridor, the focal point of Connected and Autonomous Vehicle deployment in the State of Ohio. We are a recognized thought leader in the domains of Broadband expansion, Technology Workforce Development, Smart Cities, Smart Mobility, and Data Analytics.

As an experiment, the City of Dublin has created a Proof of Concept project utilizing Distributed Ledger Technology to create a voluntary Digital Identity. This identity will serve as a tool for Dublin residents to keep their Personal Identifiable Information (PII) private and secure, and minimize how it is shared, while maintaining control over its use by our government. While the United State does not yet have a General Data Protection Rule (GDPR) law like the European Union does at this time, most experts agree that it is just a matter of time before we have a similar overarching privacy law in the United States. And we should. It is good for our citizens, but we are woefully behind in the technical and data privacy preparation needed to place such control in the hands of every individual. In fact, we are behind in the exploration, experimentation, and skill development of so many emerging technologies and we cannot afford to delay the intensified development of advanced innovations of this type, particularly at the local government level.

There is so much more to Distributed Ledger Technologies than Cryptocurrencies. We believe that local and state governments are not growing in scale or scope. As major technological disruption occurs in the private sector, governments must prepare to employ advanced technologies to accomplish world class operations, services, and experiences, while simultaneously keeping costs under control. The use of emerging

technologies such as DLT/Blockchain will be absolutely critical to the major disruptions heading our way in the realms of data analytics, privacy, security, and the digitalization of everything. I urge you to support this simple language that would allow communities such as the City of Dublin, as well as our counterparts in State government agencies, to deploy this technology freely and legally.

Finally, we must not dismiss the Economic Development opportunities of passing this bill. The City of Dublin has built a strategy on convincing forward looking businesses to locate in our community. More than a rule or policy being set by our legislature, this bill is a cue or a signal to business and industry that might otherwise look past Ohio as a place to build a tech company. These companies look for communities that have technological sophistication. Integrating Distributed Ledger Technology into our systems and services sends a signal to the companies we are trying to attract that this government “gets it”, and that this is the best location for you to build your next great company.

I appreciate your consideration of this legislation as the City of Dublin works to build a sustainable model of local government in an age of disruption and change.

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