



ZANESVILLE - MUSKINGUM COUNTY

PORT AUTHORITY

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April 24, 2019

RE: H.B. No. 98 Reinstatement the Rural Industrial Park Loan Fund
Proponent Statement

In June of 2018, the National Road Business Park was formally established in Muskingum County. This was done through a collaborative financial effort between the Zanesville-Muskingum County Port Authority (ZMCPA), the Muskingum County Commissioners and the City of Zanesville. Each entity contributed \$1.5 million (\$4.5 million total) to the project; the ZMCPA and the County Commissioners' funds were used to purchase the 203 acre Greenfield site and the City of Zanesville's funds will be used toward infrastructure upgrades.

The ZMCPA has diligently pursued grant funding to begin development of the National Road Business Park. To date, we have received:

- ODOT Jobs & Commerce Transportation Improvement District Program Grant (FY19) in the amount of \$243,865.00. These funds will be used for preliminary engineering detailed design, right of way acquisition and construction.
- Appalachian Regional Commission and Governor's Office of Appalachian Local Access Road Grant in the amount of \$500,000.00. These funds are to be used to assist in creating an access road into the National Road Business Park.

The National Road Business Park site possesses all of the intangibles desired from our most recent site selectors and is located in a position ideal for manufacturing, distribution or the oil and gas markets. The proximity of Zanesville and Muskingum County are ideal, as we are located within one day's truck drive of 60% of the U.S. population. Muskingum County has a readily available work force, with a labor force in the county of over 41,000 and we are a regional center for health care, services shopping and employment.

The ZMCPA's Board of Directors, Muskingum County Commissioners and City of Zanesville recognize that investment must take place in order to grow. Turning the National Road Business Park into a turn-key location depends greatly on the terms of the legislation in H.B. No. 98. This is a funding source that we would tap into immediately and would be an invaluable resource for Muskingum County.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to support H.B. No. 98, and Reinstatement the Rural Industrial Park Loan Fund.

Sincerely,

Matt Abbott
Executive Director

(Please see attached Exhibit showing Site Layout Concept)