



City Of Dover
Office of the Mayor

MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 110 EAST THIRD STREET
DOVER, OHIO 44622-2922



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April 29, 2019

*The Honorable Rep. Paul Zeltwanger
Ohio House of Representatives, 54th District
77 South High Street, 12th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215*

Dear Chairman Zeltwanger:

I am writing as a proponent for the pending legislation that will reinstate the Rural Industrial Park Loan program (House Bill 98). As Mayor of the City of Dover, a community of just over 13,000 residents and home to over 1200 business and industry all the way from Mom and Pop to Fortune 500 entities, I know just how helpful this program was to our community. Without this tool at our disposal we have been hamstrung in the development of new industrial parks to grow our business and industrial base. Reinstating this program will go a long way toward leveling the playing field for communities such as Dover.

Southern and Eastern Ohio have not benefitted from the economic growth that Ohio has enjoyed following the Great Recession. This, in large part, is due to a dearth in competitive sites and buildings. The site selection process, which is a major driver of economic growth, identifies sites and buildings that have the necessary utilities and studies in place to minimize risk and maximize speed for industry. Simply put, if communities do not have an inventory of sites and building, they do not have a product to market to site selectors and industry.

Previous state programs, such as the Rural Industrial Park Loan Program, Urban & Rural Initiatives and the Industrial Site Improvement Fund, were utilized with great success to develop speculative sites and buildings in distressed areas of Ohio. Unfortunately, there is no such program in place to fund initiatives. The Facilities Establishment Fund, which has been receiving loan payments from previous iterations of development programs, is well-capitalized with roughly \$200,000,000 in the fund.



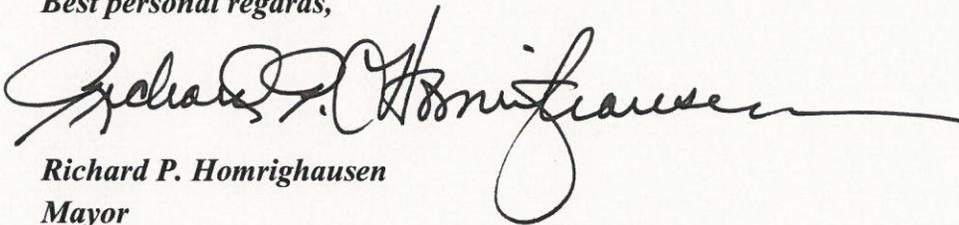
TREE CITY USA

Assistance towards the distressed areas of Ohio will have a strong return on investment for the state. In the short-term, funds will be recouped for the development costs associated with these projects and in the long-term the taxes generated through commercial activity, sales and income tax will grow Ohio's General Revenue Fund, while employing Ohioans. This program creates a win-win situation for all who are able to take advantage of it.

Tuscarawas County is at a disadvantage because of our limited available industrial land and lack of building stock. Since this programs demise we have little to no tools available to create the necessary land to be used to offer to business and industry looking to move to our area. Additionally, investors do not want to create opportunities without the assistance of these programs which once made it easier for them to want to do programs in the county. Without the reinstatement of these tools we see little change in the future advancement of Tuscarawas County into a vibrant area of the state.

For these reasons I am supportive of the reinstatement of this important tool for economic development in rural Ohio.

Best personal regards,



*Richard P. Homrighausen
Mayor*

RPH/dim

CC: Vice Chair Powell, Ranking Member Sobecki



WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: April 29, 2019

Name: Richard P. Homrighausen

Are you representing: Yourself Organization

Organization (If Applicable): City of Dover, Ohio

Position/Title: Mayor

Address: 110 East Third Street

City: Dover State: Ohio Zip: 44622

Best Contact Telephone: 330-343-6726 Email: mayor.homrighausen@doverohio.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 98

Specific Issue: Rural Industrial Park Loan Fund

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? none - providing written testimony only.

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Proponent for reinstatement of the Rural Industrial Park Loan Fund to assist Dover and Tuscarawas County in the development of Industrial Parks to attract business and industry to our area.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.