



Chair Manning, Vice-Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Maharath, and Members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs Committee. My name is Nathan Moritmer, Vice-President of Operations at the University of Akron. Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 259. Bellow please find bullet-points related to the Heisman Lodge, which is the land being conveyed under the bill.

- In 1988, the City of Akron agreed to transfer property to the University, referred to as the Heisman Lodge and adjacent to the site of the former Rubber Bowl, which at the time was owned by the University and used for its athletic contests.
- The University paid \$1.00 as consideration for the transfer of the Heisman Lodge from the City. The agreement granted the City a reversionary interest in the Heisman Lodge, should the University ever seek to sell all or part of the property or should the University determine that it no longer desired ownership. The Agreement was approved by both the Akron City Council and the University's Board of Trustees. Unfortunately, when the Warranty Deed transferring the property was prepared and filed, the reversion was not included in the Deed, despite the stated intent of both parties in the Agreement.
- During the time that the Rubber Bowl was in use, the Heisman Lodge was used by the University for educational, cultural and recreational purposes. Since the University's move to a new stadium in 2009 and its sale of the Rubber Bowl in 2013, the University has had no need for the Heisman Lodge.
- The City and the University have discussed the return of the Heisman Lodge to the City and the City is interested in receiving back the property. The legislation will enable the transfer to occur and effect the intent of the original agreement between the parties.

Sincerely,

Nathan Mortimer  
The University of Akron