Cincinnati USA
Regional Chamber

Jill P. Meyer
President & CEO

December 7, 2015

The Honorable Bob Peterson
The Ohio Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Ground Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Peterson,

The Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber represents over 4,000 businesses and 310,000 employees in the Greater Cincinnati region. On behalf of this large business constituency, the Chamber encourages you and your colleagues to pass Senate Bill 235.

The state and our local communities partner with the private sector to invest significant time and resources into retaining and attracting businesses to Ohio, growing the number of jobs in the state, and helping citizens prosper. These economic development efforts have resulted in huge wins for the state - thousands of jobs and new investment. Ohio's economy, however, holds considerably more growth potential. A key factor in business attraction efforts for economic development organizations like REDI Cincinnati, the regional JobsOhio partner, is site readiness. To continue the momentum of business attraction, Ohio needs more pad-ready sites to market. Senate Bill 235 will support Ohio's economic growth by removing an impediment to making a site ready for development.

Senate Bill 235 allows for a private developer to invest in a piece of property, without penalty, to make the property attractive to new business and ready for commercial or industrial use. The bill suspends an increase in the taxable value of the property until building construction starts or until the site is sold. Adding infrastructure, such as sewer and water mains and extensions, electrical meters, pedestals, and conduits, implementation of pre-construction stormwater best management practices, and other site ready infrastructure needs to development sites makes them attractive to site selectors and businesses looking to relocate or expand.

Senate Bill 235 provides a new way to increase private development by lowering the cost burden. It imposes no increased burden on the political subdivision and no loss to current tax revenue, as taxes are already being and will continue to be collected. Any increased need for service is already paid through development and permitting fees.

To build into the existing momentum of economic growth and furthering our collective investments and efforts to make Ohio the best state to do business, the Chamber encourages you to support Senate Bill 235.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Jill P. Meyer

Copy: President Keith Faber, Senators Bill Beagle, Charleta Tavares, Capri Cafaro, John Eklund, Cliff Hite, Kris Jordan, Larry Obhof, Chris Widener, and Sandra Williams.

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