CANTON REGIONAL SM
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SB 235: Industrial/Commercial Development-Tax Exempt Until Construction Begins
David Kaminski, Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce
Jan. 20, 2016

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chairman Beagle, Ranking Member Tavares and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, thank you for this opportunity to speak in favor of SB 235. This bill would give land developers a new incentive for preparing shovel-ready sites for establishing new businesses.

My name is David Kaminski, vice president for public policy and energy at the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce. We have 1,600 member-businesses in the Canton-Stark County area.

We have consulted with our members in land development and see this as a benefit for risk-takers who invest in property so that it is ready for businesses in need of a new location. We applaud Senators Beagle and Coley for introducing this bill. We join our friends at the Cincinnati USA Chamber in their efforts to support this legislation.

Back in 2004, with significant assistance from the federal and state government, our chamber's foundation and the DeHoff Family Foundation, an arm of DeHoff Development in North Canton, assembled a group of local partners and purchased a 141-acre farm on the edge of Canton's city limits. We encouraged the city and the adjacent township to enter into a tax-sharing agreement that allowed the annexation, and encouraged the city to install full city utilities and city streets. We removed the topsoil so the lots were ready for construction, and landscaped the park. That $8.5 million business park is now about half occupied.

I tell you this to show that the Canton Regional Chamber clearly sees the need to prepare for business expansion, and we believe this bill will give private developers an incentive to do similar work in communities around the state.

We ask this committee to report favorably on SB 235. I am happy answer any questions to the extent that I am able.

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