Senate Bill 235 Proponent Testimony
Senate Ways and Means Committee
January 20, 2016

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Beagle, Minority Leader Tavares, and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today in support of SB 235.

My name is Jason Kershner. I am Vice President of Government Affairs for the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, representing more than 4,000 businesses and over 350,000 employees.

The Chamber works day in and day out to build a region that enables businesses to be successful and to better our collective economy. This work is done in partnership with organizations that are similarly driven, like REDI Cincinnati – the regional economic development initiative and JobsOhio partner.

It is through these types of collaborations that the state and our local communities, in partnership with the private sector, have retained and attracted 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 to businesses looking to locate or grow in Ohio.

Senate Bill 235 will support Ohio's economic growth by removing an impediment to making a site ready for development.

The bill suspends an increase in the taxable value of the property until construction of a building begins 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 sites makes them attractive to site selectors and businesses looking to relocate or expand in Ohio.

Senate Bill 235 provides a new way to increase private development by lowering the *initial* 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.

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 this committee to favorably report Senate Bill 235.

Thank you to the bill sponsors, Senators Beagle and Coley for their work on this legislation.
Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions.