



The Honorable Louis W. Blessing III  
77 S. High Street  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor Riffe Building  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Support for House Bill 495

February 20, 2018

Dear Chairman Blessing,

On behalf of the City of Monroe's citizens and employees, I am writing in support of House Bill 495, which would create a closed-loop payment processing system for medical marijuana in Ohio.

Monroe considers medical marijuana to be part of the pharmaceutical industry, and we will soon have a small medical marijuana grower (Cultivator Level II) operating in the community. We believe this is a strong economic development opportunity that may present positive downstream impacts on research and development in the ongoing commitment to create smarter, more effective medical treatments.

Due to the Federal Reserve's discouragement of member banks and institutions from opening accounts with marijuana-related businesses, it is our understanding that medical marijuana will be all all-cash industry in Ohio. The presence of large amounts of cash in our business and traveling on our streets raises potential safety concerns for our companies and our citizens.

While we recognize that the medical marijuana companies will take security measures, we believe it is prudent to also be aware of the potential effects of this on our public safety services. To lower the risk of increased crime and the cost of doing business in Ohio, Monroe supports HB 495 and respectfully asks for favorable passage of the bill.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions about Monroe's support of HB 495 or on any other legislative matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Brock", written over a white background.

William J. Brock  
City Manager

Cc: Speaker Cliff Rosenberger; Representative Bill Seitz; Members of the Ohio House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee; and Senator Bill Coley.