



Chair Anielski, Ranking Member Bishoff, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, I would like to thank you for allowing Representative Rogers and I the opportunity to bring House Bill 122 before you today. Simply put, House Bill 122 would establish the Regional Economic Development Study Committee to investigate the benefits of creating metropolitan economic development alliances.

Collaborative metropolitan economic development has been shown to benefit all participating entities. The committee would study the features, benefits, and challenges involved in establishing metropolitan economic development alliances that would incentivize cooperation, enhance success, and provide for greater efficiency in economic development among participating municipal corporations, namely in metropolitan areas. The committee may also consider the process and structure of such alliances and review legislative proposals. In completing its study, the committee shall consult with various groups, including county commissioners, township trustees, mayors, city council members, members of statewide and metropolitan organizations, and members of chambers of commerce.

The proposed committee would be bipartisan and will consist of members from the Ohio House of Representatives, the Ohio Senate, a designee of the Governor, academic representatives, and a representative from the Regional Prosperity Initiative. The committee will submit a report of its findings within one year of the effective date of the bill.

We want to stress that this bill does nothing more than create a study committee. It creates no obligations for local governments. Furthermore, the study will show whether this program would be beneficial or unfavorable to Ohio; action taken past the study would require different legislation. This legislation is supported by the North East Ohio Mayors and Managers Association.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. We are available for any questions.