

**Frank LaRose
State Senator
27th District**



Ohio Senate

**Kenny Yuko
State Senator
25th District**

**Sponsor Testimony on Senate Bill 97
Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
June 21, 2017**

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Minority Member Schiavoni, members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 97. This legislation will establish the Regional Economic Development Study Committee to investigate the benefits of creating regional economic development alliances.

Collaborative regional economic development has been shown to benefit all participating entities. The committee would study the features, benefits, and challenges involved in establishing regional economic development alliances that would incentivize cooperation, enhance success, and provide for greater efficiency in economic development among participating municipal corporations. 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 regional organizations, and members of chambers of commerce.

The proposed committee would be bipartisan and 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. This legislation is supported by the North East Ohio Mayors and Managers Association.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning. We would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.