



Written Proponent Testimony
House Bill 122—Economic Development Study Committee
Jennifer Tisone Price, Executive Director
Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee
April 11, 2018

Chairman Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding Am. Sub. Senate Bill H.B. 122. My name is Jennifer Price and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Economic Development Association (“OEDA”).

OEDA represents over 500 economic development professionals from across the state. The organization as it stands today was created in 2005 through the merger of the Ohio Development Association and the Ohio Economic Development Council. OEDA is a non-partisan organization which advocates on behalf of economic development issues important to growing the Ohio economy. OEDA represents members from all of Ohio’s 88 counties.

OEDA’s members are leaders in advancing Ohio’s economy, creating jobs and building communities. Our members come from every region of the state, from urban, suburban, and rural communities, and from both the public and private sector.

On behalf of OEDA, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the legislature’s and the sponsor’s efforts to support local economic development. As you know, this bill establishes the Regional Economic Development Study. OEDA agrees with H.B. 122’s sponsors, Representative Hambley and Rogers, and believes that collaborative metropolitan economic development benefit all participating entities.

OEDA believes that the formation of the Regional Economic Development Study Committee will bring together the legislature, the Governor’s office, academia, and leaders in the economic development industry to investigate the benefits of creating metropolitan economic development alliances. OEDA is uniquely situated to support the work of the Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee based on OEDA’s members’ broad geographic reach. OEDA members are on the front lines of economic development. OEDA looks forward to participating on the Study Committee as an ex officio member to provide the benefit of its members’ experience in this industry.

Thank you for your commitment to exploring additional ways to develop regional economic development alliances to potentially enhance Ohio’s existing business and economic development-friendly climate. We would be happy to discuss these issues with you further and have provided contact information below. Again, thank you for considering this information and for your efforts to encourage economic development throughout Ohio.

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