The Honorable Rep. Paul Zeltwanger

Ohio House of Representatives, 54th District

77 South High St., 12th Floor

Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Zeltwanger:

I am writing as a proponent for the pending legislation that will reinstate the Rural Industrial Park Loan program (House Bill 98). The office of Economic Development of Scioto County Robert Horton Director, and Mark Ward Assistant Director we believe this is needed legislation, to spur Economic Growth to Southern Ohio.

 Scioto County has not benefitted from economic growth in many years, and has experienced a recession and multi-faceted decline for the last 40 years. Having brown fields where factories were once located is common in Scioto County. Matching Grants are wonderful, but having the funds to match when introduced seem to be difficult at times. We are working with various entities (EPA, & OEPA) to work on a resolve. Some of the infrastructure on some of these sites remain, and will need updating and repairs to suffice future growth.

 Many of the request for information (RFI) that come to us via Jobs Ohio in 2019 are looking for buildings in the 100,000 sq/ft plus range. Scioto County does not have any buildings to suffice this need. We have acreage that could handle a project of that magnitude with no buildings.

 Scioto County is training a workforce at Scioto County Career and Technical Center, and Shawnee State University. The numbers produced for degree, and non-degree required fields of practice make Scioto County competitive in workforce.

 Previous state programs, such as the Rural Industrial Park Loan Program, Urban & Rural Initiatives and the Industrial Site Improvement Fund, were utilized with great success to develop speculative sites and buildings in distressed areas of Ohio. Unfortunately, there is no such program in place to fund initiatives. The Facilities Establishment Fund, which has been receiving loan repayments from previous iterations of development programs, is well-capitalized with roughly $200,000,000 in the fund.

 With this legislation in use with Scioto County Economic Development, and the various offices in the local Government will create an environment that will make Scioto County competitive, Stimulate the local and state economy, and encourage economic growth, and investment.

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 Robert Horton Mark C. Ward

 Director Assistant Director

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