 

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

HB 252

JUNE 19, 2019

Chair Zeltwanger, Vice Chair Powell, Ranking Member Sobecki and members of the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 252.

HB 252 would create the Land Reutilization Demolition Program, which would provide match-funding for the demolition of structures on blighted property. The bill appropriates $50 million for both FY 2020 and FY 2021 to ensure the program is properly funded.

Blighted properties are problematic for local governments across the state. In order to be designated a blighted property, the property in question must either pose a direct threat to public health or safety, have a tax delinquency that exceeds what the property is worth, or have conditions that adversely affect surrounding property values or limit land use in the area.

Local communities cannot revitalize nor expand with the widespread and persistent presence of blighted properties within their jurisdiction. However, many local governments – particularly in smaller or more rural counties – lack the adequate funding to demolish blighted property. HB 252 bridges funding gaps for these communities while ensuring the local government is still adequately financially invested in the demolition and revitalization of blighted properties.

The League and CCAO want to thank Rep. Greenspan for recognizing this problem and for working on an appropriate solution. Local governments across Ohio would benefit from HB 252, and we urge for your favorable passage of this bill.