City of Akron, Ohio

DANIEL HORRIGAN, MAYOR

Daniel Horrigan
Mayor, City of Akron
House Finance Committee
SB 310 – Proponent Testimony
June 3, 2020

Chairman Oelslager, Chairman Callender, Vice Chairman Scherer, and Ranking Member Cera, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony to Senate Bill 310 (SB 310) and urge your swift and favorable action so that our city can access funding from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to cover our costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you know, Ohio cities have been on the front line of this pandemic all while experiencing severe revenue loss. Ohio municipalities are in a particularly difficult economic position because, unlike most other states, Ohio municipalities' revenue relies heavily on income tax. In Akron, 58% of our budget comes from income tax revenue. We have seen an immediate and drastic loss of revenue with the closing of businesses and the high number of people now unemployed. As a result of the rapid progression of COVID-19, the City of Akron expects to experience a 20% - 35% drop in revenue for 2020. In addition, a second major source of our revenue, water, has been directly adversely affected, through less consumption partnered with shut-off moratoriums. Passage of HB 310 will provide the critical, immediate relief we desperately need during this pandemic.

Following passage of SB 310, I respectfully urge the General Assembly to take action to ensure the remaining $850 million of funding in the CARES Act is allocated to assist Ohio's local governments. CARES Act funding will play an essential role as we navigate this unprecedented time to ensure our citizens and businesses are able to come out of this pandemic.

Thank you for your time and attention to this incredibly important matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel Horrigan
Mayor, City of Akron