



September 25, 2019

Dear Chair Hoagland and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee,

The Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA) is a non-partisan professional association that advocates on behalf of economic development practitioners. The OEDA focuses on the issues that are most important to growing Ohio's economy. OEDA members support H.B. 168.

Implementing a bona fide prospective purchase pathway for lightly contaminated properties encourages both the remediation and development of sites that might otherwise go unused. This proposal aligns Ohio with federal law, as well as with neighboring states like Indiana and Michigan.

This legislation protects an otherwise innocent bona fide purchaser from liability for contamination. H.B. 168 potentially accelerates the cleanup and redevelopment of these lightly contaminated sites by providing a bona fide purchaser with state level immunity if the purchaser follows the appropriate protocol, same as the federal immunity.

Through H.B. 168, Ohio can both increase the number of developable sites and help communities redevelop long-ago abandoned properties that often hold back overall economic development in an area. Nothing in this legislation prevents the cleanup and remediation of these lightly contaminated sites and the legislation does not remove or weaken any existing environmental regulations or laws.

The OEDA supports passing H.B. 168 as a common-sense solution to encourage economic development.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at jprice@ohioeda.com or 614.506.1500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Price". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Price
Executive Director