



ZANESVILLE - MUSKINGUM COUNTY

PORT AUTHORITY

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May 20, 2019

The Honorable Senator Dolan
Ohio Senate, 24th District
1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Dolan,

In June of 2018, the National Road Business Park was formally established in Muskingum County. This was done through a collaborative financial effort between the Zanesville-Muskingum County Port Authority (ZMCPA), the Muskingum County Commissioners and the City of Zanesville. Each entity contributed \$1.5 million (\$4.5 million total) to the project; the ZMCPA and the County Commissioners' funds were used to purchase the 203 acre Greenfield site and the City of Zanesville's funds will be used toward infrastructure upgrades.

The ZMCPA has diligently pursued grant funding to begin development of the National Road Business Park. To date, we have received:

- ODOT Jobs & Commerce Transportation Improvement District Program Grant (FY19) in the amount of \$243,865.00. These funds will be used for preliminary engineering detailed design, right of way acquisition and construction.
- Appalachian Regional Commission and Governor's Office of Appalachian Local Access Road Grant in the amount of \$500,000.00. These funds are to be used to assist in creating an access road into the National Road Business Park.

The National Road Business Park site possesses all of the intangibles desired from our most recent site selectors and is located in a position ideal for manufacturing, distribution or the oil and gas markets. Muskingum County has a readily available work force, with a labor force in the county of over 41,000 and we are a regional center for health care, services shopping and employment.

The ZMCPA's Board of Directors, Muskingum County Commissioners and City of Zanesville recognize that investment must take place in order to grow. Turning the National Road Business Park into a turn-key location depends greatly on Rural Industrial Park Loan (RIPL) funding, and we are encouraged by the passing of H.B. 166 to appropriate \$25 million from the Facilities Establishment Fund. The RIPL is a funding source that we would tap into immediately and would be an invaluable resource for Muskingum County.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to support H.B. No. 166 this Thursday May 23, 2019, and Reinstate the Rural Industrial Park Loan Fund.

Sincerely,

Matt Abbott

Executive Director

(Please see attached Exhibit showing Site Layout Concept)

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