



Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Burke, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on behalf of the City of Dublin, Ohio, reference Senate Bill 357 and the distribution of federal corona virus relief funding to local governments.

Local jurisdictions, like the City of Dublin, are at the forefront of the safety and quality of life for Ohio's residents. Similarly, we continue be at the forefront of economic development and are there to lead economic recovery as we find light on the other side of this pandemic. We are in need of your support.

To date, the City of Dublin is fortunate that our long term fiscal planning and unique economic position has postured the city to endure the current pandemic and associated economic downturn better than expected. The City's primary revenue source, income taxes, are holding steady to slightly declining from our conservative projections, even though issues related to the 21 day rule threaten this. Additionally, the City, for decades, has established robust reserves to help endure emergencies and to position ourselves to respond to economic opportunities. Therefore, we know we are in a better situation than some of our peers. While CARES Act funding is being distributed to Ohio's local jurisdictions, it still falls short of the need of many of our cities to replenish lost revenues to sustain fundamental services. We ask on behalf of ourselves and our peers that you give this your utmost attention, as the ability of Ohio's cities to sustain services and provide support to economic development efforts are and will be significantly hindered.

The City of Dublin could easily justify well over \$5m in CARES Act related costs, as we believe allowed by the Department of Treasury. The \$330,000 the City has received obviously does not begin to cover the City's costs, but more importantly, the City could provide expanded programming that better assists local small businesses and our residents as they try to go back to work. For example, the City has advance from its own reserves in its Hotel/Motel Tax fund a \$300,000 grant to the Dublin Convention & Visitors Bureau to help repair the hospitality and restaurant industries, perhaps our most impacted business cluster. The City is working with local Latchkey programs to make City facilities available to expand services to assist those parents trying to return to work and managing online schooling. The City could certainly partner with more agencies to provide additional needed programming and assistance during this very challenging time with more CARES Act dollars be released.

The City of Dublin stands ready to lead through and on the other side of the economic downturn we are experiencing. The City continues to experience an active pipeline of possible projects and is well positioned to secure those. Additionally, we have conducted significant forward planning regarding infrastructure and programmatic improvements that continue to set the conditions for attraction, retention, expansion and creation of new businesses and jobs. Our job ready site and other land the city has in its possession are well positioned for these efforts. Assistance for certain infrastructure such as water, sewer and fiber optic expansions could be critical to ensure our readiness and quick response time. We realize other cities are postured similarly, but perhaps not at the level Dublin is prepared. We ask that CARES Act or similar stimulus dollars ALSO be focused on cities like ours who are most ready to respond to the need of businesses on short notice. Specifically, we request the following:

- The immediate release of the additional corona virus funding still in the State of Ohio's possession to local jurisdictions. We also ask this be distributed on a per capita basis and NOT based on the Local Government Fund formula. It is our experience that this funding is not equitable. For example, here in Central Ohio, Dublin's peer suburbs are receiving two and three times the amount of dollars than the City of Dublin.
- We hope you will pro-actively seek additional funding from the Federal Government for local jurisdictions for essential and quality of life services and/or to forward invest in local infrastructure/economic development. We believe additional funding to the remaining corona virus relief funding will be needed.
- That the State Legislature encourage the removal of strings attached to corona virus relief funding as local jurisdictions know best what their needs are to respond to this health and economic crisis.
- Distribute such additional Federal assistance on a **per capita basis directly to local jurisdictions.**

Thank you all for your service to our great State and for your support of all our local jurisdictions who are serving on the front line of this pandemic.



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