

PICKAWAY COUNTY – THE CROSSROADS FOR BUSINESS CONNECTIONS

Senate Bill 95

May 13, 2019

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Proponent Testimony

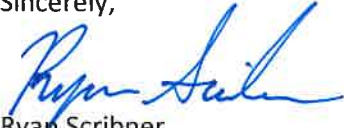
Chairman Terhar, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Ohio Senate Ways and Means committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony for Senate Bill 95. My name is Ryan Scribner, and I am the Executive Director of Pickaway Progress Partnership (P3). P3 is the economic development organization for Pickaway County and its municipalities.

Pickaway County is in the midst of an historic period of growth and recovery. Our community has been the recipient of ~\$1.7 billion of private capital investment resulting in ~3,500 new manufacturing and logistics jobs in the last 8 years. The impact of this growth is having a profound impact on our small county of just 56,000 residents. We've achieved this by utilizing a collaborative and aggressive approach to development. We have strategic intergovernmental partnerships within the county and even with the City of Columbus to the north which allows us to provide utilities and services beyond our modest local means. When it comes to incentives and "tools" in the economic development toolbox – we've used just about all of them. CRA, EZ, TIF, JEDD, CDBG, CEDA – a literal alphabet soup of development acronyms that the Ohio Revised Code provides us to use in the incredibly competitive world of economic development. Yet in spite of our success in utilizing these programs, there have been some missed opportunities that would have had an impact well beyond the borders of Pickaway County.

Pickaway County has been fortunate to have the opportunity to compete for several Megaprojects that Senate Bill 95 is intended to help support. Each one of these projects would have brought an entire new industry to our community, and in some cases, the state. The opportunity to secure billions of dollars of investment and thousands of high-tech, high-paying jobs was missed each time as we stalled at the proverbial goal line, unable to reach the end zone. There is no way to know if the outcomes might have been different if the incentive provisions in Senate Bill 95 were in place during our courtship of these projects, but there is no question that we would have been in a more competitive position. We know from benchmarking with other states that similar measures have been taken to ultimately win these transformative development projects. My hope is that through the passage of Senate Bill 95, Ohio will equip itself with the tools needed to win the types of projects that will not only sustain economic recovery, but propel us into a whole new level of prosperity.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for Senate Bill 95. I apologize that other commitments prevent me from appearing in person. I would be pleased to answer any follow up question that might arise.

Sincerely,



Ryan Scribner

Executive Director

Pickaway Progress Partnership