

Senate Bill 95  
Testimony – May 14, 2019  
Senate Ways and Means Committee  
Columbus 2020  
Kenny McDonald



150 South Front St, Suite 200  
Columbus, OH 43215

T (614) 225.6060  
[columbusregion.com](http://columbusregion.com)

Chair Terhar, Vice-Chair Roegner, Ranking Minority Member Williams, and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, thank you for permitting me to provide proponent testimony on behalf of Senate Bill 95. My name is Kenny McDonald, and I am the President and Chief Economic Officer of Columbus 2020.

Columbus 2020 serves as the economic development organization for the 11-county Columbus Region, working in partnership with state and local partners to generate opportunity and build capacity for economic growth.

Ohio and its communities continue to compete with those around the United States and around the world to retain our existing employers and to secure new economic base investment. Because of Ohio's location, business environment, talented workforce, and renowned institutions, it is often considered for projects in nearly every industry.

Occasionally, Ohio is considered for especially large and meaningful projects that would significantly impact the state's economy and workforce in a positive way. We have been the beneficiary of these projects and continue to see their daily impact on the state. One example in the Columbus Region is Honda, who was recruited four decades ago and continues to reward Ohio with jobs and investment to this day. Several other states followed Ohio's model and are also reaping the rewards of projects within the automotive, aerospace, electronics and bio-health sectors.

There will continue to be high-impact capital investment projects being considered within the United States as companies seek scale and efficiency to their operations and in their efforts to win the war for talent. While Ohio has some inherent business advantages, we also have deficiencies and inequities in our overall business and tax environment that must be addressed if we are to compete for projects that not only bring huge payrolls and capital investment but also enhanced economic multipliers.

We believe that Senate Bill 95 will send a signal that Ohio wants to be strongly considered for significant, market-changing projects. With Senate Bill 95, Ohio is showing that we are taking a thoughtful, performance-based and future oriented view toward business and innovation.

We are grateful for the Senate's leadership and the diligent work undertaken to understand the importance of competitiveness and stewardship of Ohio's economy. I look forward to working with you all to continue to create a dynamic and growing economy here in Ohio. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on behalf of Senate Bill 95 and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**KENNY McDONALD, CEcD**  
President and Chief Economic Officer  
**Columbus 2020**, 150 South Front St, Suite 200 Columbus, OH 43215

