



WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION  
COMMITTEE

PROPONENT TESTIMONY  
SB 83

September 28, 2021

Chair Koehler, Vice Chair Creech, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to write in support of SB 83, which creates a central, state-sponsored inventory of brownfield sites in Ohio.

Blighted properties are problematic for local governments across the state. In order to be designated a blighted property, the property in question must either pose a direct threat to public health or safety, have a tax delinquency that exceeds what the property is worth, or have conditions that adversely affect surrounding property values or limit land use in the area.

SB 83 would appropriate \$150,000 from the General Revenue Fund (GRF) for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to conduct a study in conjunction with Ohio public universities determining where brownfield sites are located across the state. Currently, both state and federal inventories of brownfield sites rely on voluntary reporting.

The OEPA's study would not only identify brownfield sites, but also determine how many need cleanup and estimate the cost of that cleanup. The study would also report identified sources of funding for cleanup and develop recommendations for policies that facilitate brownfield revitalization.

Local communities cannot revitalize nor expand with the widespread and persistent presence of blighted properties within their jurisdiction. SB 83 recognizes the gaps in current brownfield site inventory, and the benefit of making sure both local governments and developers have the information they need in the consideration of how to repurpose a brownfield site.

Thank you for your consideration, and we urge for your favorable passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Kent Scarrett  
Executive Director  
Ohio Municipal League