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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

Ohio House State and Local Government Committee

Written Interested Party Testimony – House Bill 237

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Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written interested party testimony on House Bill 237.

HB 237 would require counties to provide an electronic means of recording and accessing documents and makes adjustments to certain charges and fees levied by county recorders.

CCAO supports harnessing technology to increase government efficiency and to better equip county government to serve the public. Electronic recording (“eRecording”) and back-scanning existing paper documents can expedite the recording process and help facilitate access to these important materials. A number of Ohio counties have already considered these potential benefits and have invested in the technology required to meet HB 237’s requirements.

While some larger counties have made these technological investments, a number of smaller and medium-sized counties have not had the resources available to fund these technology upgrades. CCAO strongly supports that if a mandate is placed on county government, state funds should be made available to pay for the mandated requirements. Thus, CCAO supports the General Revenue Fund appropriation contained in the bill to the County Recorder Electronic Record Modernization Program to aid counties in covering costs associated with back scanning existing documents and acquiring any necessary technology.

Furthermore, CCAO supports the \$5 document preservation surcharge dedicated to the county general fund to support the preservation and digitization of documents and any ongoing costs of this new technology. Counties will be investing in the maintenance of this new technology for years to come, and it is critical that tools be in place to cover these new ongoing costs.

To conclude, counties recognize the importance of embracing technology to better serve their residents. If the state is to mandate that counties invest in technology such



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as eRecording and back scanning, the necessary state resources should be made available to fund that mandate. CCAO supports the state resources and tools included in HB 237 toward this effort.

If you have any questions about my written remarks, please do not hesitate to contact me.