



WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE

PROPONENT TESTIMONY
SB 83

March 23, 2021

Chair Schaffer, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources 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.

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.

In addition, the legislation would require OEPA to determine how many of the sites need of cleaned-up 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.

As you are aware, a brownfield site is an abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial, commercial, or institutional property where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by known or potential releases of hazardous substances or petroleum. The redevelopment of brownfields can provide many benefits to a community, including an increased tax base, the creation of new jobs, the utilization of existing infrastructure, and the removal of blight. The removal of contaminants also helps to protect the health of individuals and the environment.

Blighted properties and especially brownfields are one of the most significant inhibitors to a communities' ability to provide robust revitalization efforts, providing greater investment opportunities and a stronger economic development future. These efforts not only benefit the individual community but the entire state. SB 83 recognizes gaps in current brownfield site inventory systems and will help support the partnership between the state and local governments to identify and begin remediating Ohio's brownfields.

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

Sincerely,

Kent Scarrett

Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League