



March 16, 2021

The Honorable Stephanie Kunze
The Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
1st Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Senator Kunze,

I appreciate the opportunity to share the importance of the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) to our region's economic development and workforce development efforts.

The Regional Growth Partnership is working in collaboration with Fulton, Lucas, Ottawa and Wood counties, as well as The Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce and representatives of higher education, to implement a comprehensive regional workforce development plan.

We are currently setting strategy. Identifying key measurables and bringing all workforce related programs together to provide the Toledo MSA with an organized, efficient and effective workforce development infrastructure. TARTA is a valuable partner in this effort.

In best practice research, we continually find that a vibrant regional transportation system is a key component to any successful workforce initiative. Access to transportation is not only a service to the workforce, but also leads to business retention and attraction. Our current businesses, and those looking to locate in our region, want a viable option to get their employees to work.

With TARTA CEO Kim Dunham and Board President Kelsie Hoagland, TARTA understands the key role that transportation plays in workforce and economic development. Under their leadership, TARTA has become a "go-to" resource as we develop the transportation aspect of our strategy. They are, and will continue to be, a valuable partner in the growth and success of our region.

Regards,

Joseph Luzar

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