



WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

PROPONENT TESTIMONY

HB 123

October 26, 2021

Chair Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to write in support of HB 123.

HB 123 will further enable cities and villages to invest local economic development efforts by removing roadblocks that may impede the creation of Community Reinvestment Areas (CRAs).

As you are aware, CRAs are a permissive economic development tool that allows a municipality to provide property owners within the CRA a real property tax exemption for the construction of new buildings or the renovation of existing ones. HB 123 would help make CRAs more accessible to cities and villages by removing existing barriers in current law and creating greater opportunities for municipalities to use CRAs as a means to invest in their local communities.

We appreciate the bill's sponsors for their work to make CRAs more accessible. Ohio's cities and villages are the economic engines of the state and HB 123 will make it easier for municipalities to use this permissive tool for economic development.

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

Sincerely,

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League