

# COLERAIN

TOWNSHIP - OHIO

May 31, 2024

Chairman Edwards, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee,

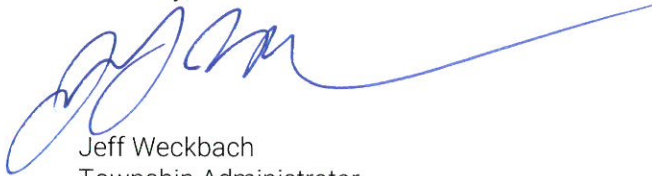
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for HB315 introduced by Representatives Seitz and Hall. The originally introduced bill included the ability for limited home rule townships to create New Community Authorities (NCAs). This section was then later removed from the bill as it made its way through the House State and Local Government. Our hope is that we are able to see this language reintroduced into the final version of the legislation, as the ability to create an NCA will help to allow our communities to better serve our residents and foster better economic development in our community.

As a Limited Home Rule Township, Colerain Township has utilized nearly every economic development tool available to it including Tax Increment Financing (TIF), Joint Economic Development Zones and Districts (JEDZ / JEDD), and Community Reinvestment Areas (CRA) in order to generate development and to keep property taxes low. The ability to utilize an NCA would allow Colerain an opportunity to explore additional ways to lower the overall tax burden while helping to bring in new development that benefits all of Colerain's residents.

It is important to note that the ability to create an NCA is already afforded to many Townships in the state based on County population. The proposal in HB 315 would have extended that provision to just 12 additional Townships – 12 Townships that are already sophisticated enough to take advantage of what an NCA brings to the table. An NCA does not deprive nor redirect County revenue which is a common fear of Counties. Instead, it helps create new revenue opportunities that benefit all levels of local government, including counties.

Colerain Township would like the committee to strongly consider reintroducing this language into the final version of HB315. This language will allow Home Rule Urban Townships the ability to create New Community Authorities for the furtherance of economic development and community enhancement. We all are continuing to find ways to innovate and do more with the limited resources provided to us. The ability to have an NCA will allow us to bring transformational development to our community that will allow us to continue to thrive.

Sincerely,



Jeff Weckbach  
Township Administrator  
Colerain Township, Ohio

**TRUSTEES**

Cathy Ulrich  
Daniel Unger  
Matt Wahler

**FISCAL OFFICER**

Jeffrey D. Baker

**ADMINISTRATOR**

Jeff Weckbach