



June 18, 2024

House Finance Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
Riffe Center, 77 S. High Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Chairman Edwards, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee, on behalf of Prairie Township and our Board of Trustees, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony regarding HB 315. One of the items covered in the bill was the ability for limited home rule townships to create New Community Housing Authorities (NCAs), which was removed before the bill was reported out of the State House and Local Government committee, a vital action we believe was a misstep.

Prairie Township is a Limited Home Rule Township located in Franklin County. We have utilized several economic development tools available to us including Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Joint Economic Development Zones and Districts (JEDZ/JEDD). This has allowed us to generate development, revenue, and keep our property taxes maintainable. Prairie Township is an ever-changing landscape with a vision of future commercial and residential developments. Being close to downtown Columbus we are expecting a rising population increase over the next decade.

We believe there was a misconception surrounding the New Community Authority (NCA) provision discussed in the House State and Local Government Committee that this provision would redirect county resources, and taxing residents. An NCA does not allow a township to reduce or redirect any sales tax collected for the benefit of the county. The NCA provides townships with another tool to promote economic development without requiring additional property taxes from township residents.

Prairie Township respectfully asks the House Finance Committee to strongly consider adopting an amendment, reintroducing the original bill's language that allows for an Urban Limited Home Rule Township to utilize NCAs back into the final version of HB 315. Prairie Township is always looking for more innovative ways to do more with the resources we have at hand and the ability to create New Community Authorities would further allow more economic development in our area.

Sincerely,

James Jewell  
Township Administrator

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