

May 11, 2023

Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present interested party testimony on Substitute House Bill 33 (HB33).

My name is Ethan Harris; I am the Development Director of Clark County Ohio Community and Economic Development and the Executive Director of the Clark County Land Reutilization Corporation. Both oversee the on-the-ground work to mitigate the Brownfield issues in our community.

Over two centuries ago, Clark County was founded and developed. With the area's access to great water sources and vast, flat land, the region quickly became a hub for industrial manufacturing and innovation. In this long history, our community has been witness to many glorious rises and drastic falls of manufacturing companies. Several advancements were made; ranging from the production of agricultural equipment, cars, and steamrollers, to embalming fluid and pesticides. However, when a significant number of these companies merged or closed their doors – they left the physical shells of these ventures to remain and decay.

At the open of the Brownfield Remediation Fund, Clark County Land Reutilization Corporation (also known as the Land Bank) and our county seat, the City of Springfield, partnered to apply for funding for an assessment project. With the granted funds, collectively we began the process to acquire a Phase II Assessment for a previous industrial site, located in the center of a residential neighborhood that is a Low Median Income area targeted for intentional investment. With the initially committed funds, our organizations will gratefully be able to have this assessment completed – providing the information of what potential hazards remain on this site. Without further investment in this program though, these hazards will be without the proper resources to complete the next stage of clean up, and further hinder numerous other brownfield projects in our community from being addressed in a timely manner.

The Brownfield Remediation Fund and Building Demolition Site Revitalization funding have provided communities across our state with an infusion of hope and opportunity - a way forward. A way forward, for local organizations to assess and remediate hazardous sites that hinder progress in the wake of a site previously used for innovation. A way forward, for development to breathe life into land long since abandoned, with structures sitting like rusty anchors in the heart of our community. A way forward, for residents to feel safe without dilapidated and potentially dangerous structures remain in their neighborhood and to know it will be mitigated properly. A way forward for our community.

Chair Dolan, and members of the Finance Committee, our organization and community appreciates the significant time and consideration being poured into each and every dollar designated by the esteemed Committee, and thank you for the time and consideration for this important issue today.



Clark County
LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION

Respectfully,

Ethan Harris

Development Director, *Clark County Community and Economic Development*

Executive Director, *Clark County Land Reutilization Corporation*