



# Delaware County Finance Authority

Fostering Economic Growth Throughout Delaware County

Angel Mumma  
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Member

## HOUSE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### SUB. HOUSE BILL 147 – OPPONENT TESTIMONY

February 25, 2026

Angel Mumma  
Chair, Delaware County Finance Authority

Chair Hoops, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Brownlee, and Members of the Ohio House Development Committee:

My name is Angel Mumma. I serve as Chair of the Board of the Delaware County Finance Authority (the “DCFA”). On behalf of myself and my fellow Board Members, we appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony. I am here to express our Board’s opposition to Substitute House Bill 147.

We appreciate our partnership with the State of Ohio, Delaware County Commissioners, our local jurisdictions, and the many private and public partners who have invested and continue to invest in Delaware County. According to the Ohio Department of Development, Delaware County will continue to be ranked among the three fastest-growing counties in Ohio through at least 2050. This is not by accident. This has been the result of strategic planning and investment. It is also reflective of setting conditions and leveraging responsibly applied economic development incentives as authorized by Ohio law. Protecting these limited incentive tools is essential for our county, region, and state, as well as for the future of economic development.

We oppose Substitute HB 147 for the following reasons:

- We believe the proposed definition of “minimally acceptable investments” is arbitrary. There is no reason given for establishing \$25 million as the minimal

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amount of investment nor clear understanding of associated public infrastructure requirements to receive an automatic sales tax exemption. The DCFA has approved sales tax exemptions for projects ranging from \$3.8 million to over \$250 million. All projects were equally important to the jurisdiction, county, company, and/or developer. These projects are usually associated with public infrastructure investments aimed at meeting the needs of the wider community, instead of solely advancing the interests of the project itself.

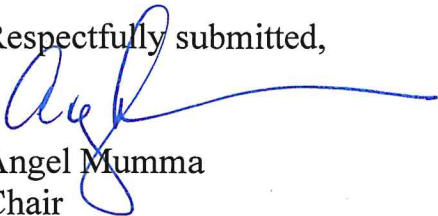
- Unreasonable refusal of a project remains too vague in the proposed legislation. No incentive should be automatic. Therefore, the proposed language limits local discretion just because it did not enter into an agreement or did not meet a 30-day time constraint. Projects, especially when tied to infrastructure improvements, are complicated and often require the local jurisdiction, the port authority, and potentially other agencies, including the State of Ohio, to participate in the decision-making process. Additionally, local jurisdictions and/or port authorities administer incentives including tax increment financing, community reinvestment areas, enterprise zones, new community authorities, payroll incentives, tax exempt bonds, sales tax exemption, and other programs based on job creation, payroll, investment, public infrastructure improvements, and community impacts. These incentives can be applied separately or together. Jurisdictions, including port authorities, who understand the goals, beliefs, and impacts of their community should continue to have the ability to approve, modify, or even deny incentives to assist local jurisdictions in achieving their vision. We recognize that it is important for applicants seeking incentives to receive prompt responses and clear explanations when any incentive is denied. We try to live up to that standard, and we encourage all local jurisdictions and port authorities to be mindful of this.
- The Tax Credit Authority (the “Authority”) override places an unfair burden on the Authority. Under the proposal, if the local port authority does not take action within 30 days and the arbitrary requirements for “minimally acceptable investments” are met, the Authority must issue a certificate. This action removes the ability of townships, villages, cities, and port authorities to have their say, leaving the Authority unable to assess if the incentive is genuinely necessary. Should it be determined that an appeal process is needed, such a process should be implemented with appropriate policies and procedures to ensure every party has an opportunity to be heard.

- The proposal to cap fees at 20% is also arbitrary. The DCFA derives revenue through fees associated with sales tax exemptions. The revenue generated by these fees assist the DCFA to cover administrative costs, support the DCFA's bond reserve, and provide additional funding to assist with other economic development opportunities. DCFA typically charges a 25% fee, with possible reductions approved by the Board. The DCFA completed its tenth bond fund deal and established an appropriate bond fund reserve balance in 2025. As a result, the DCFA will pursue its first bond fund rating in 2026. Reducing fees will have a detrimental effect on the DCFA and its ability to support a bond fund program. For example, between 2022 and 2026, the DCFA authorized 38 sales tax exemptions. Of the exemptions, 22 of 38 (60%) were valued at \$25–50 million. Limiting the sales tax to 20% would have reduced DCFA revenue by 75%, making it impossible for the DCFA to maintain a bond fund that supports local jurisdictions and other relevant economic development initiatives. In the last three years and with consideration to projects in the pipeline, the DCFA's sales tax exemption and bond program have resulted in nearly \$1 billion dollars in private and public investment. The DCFA Board appreciates the ability to apply a fee structure and commits to responsibly administering it to maximize economic development opportunities for the County, Region, and State.

In closing, local port authorities provide capital lease financing and exempt sales taxes on building materials for projects in collaboration with local jurisdictions, companies, and developers. By doing so we strive to create economic opportunities and quality of life by leveraging the economic development incentives we have at our disposal. We believe Substitute HB 147 diminishes our capability, removes accountability, and places an unfair burden on the Tax Credit Authority that removes the voices of local governments, specifically townships, villages, and cities. With that in mind, we oppose Substitute HB147.

Again, on behalf of the DCFA Board, thank you for this opportunity and I am happy to address any questions you may have to the best of my ability.

Respectfully submitted,



Angel Mumma  
Chair

Delaware County Finance Authority