



**Ohio House Development Committee
HB 147 Opponent Testimony
February 25, 2026
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Chairman Hoops, Vice Chairman Lorenz, Ranking Member Brownlee, and members of the House Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present opponent testimony on House Bill 147. My name is Kris McClintick, and I serve as Executive Director of the Clermont County Port Authority. I appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns regarding this legislation and its potential impact on economic development efforts in Clermont County.

The Clermont County Port Authority is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio created to facilitate economic development, job creation, and infrastructure investment within our county. We work in partnership with Clermont County, local municipalities, townships, school districts, and private-sector partners to structure and finance projects that strengthen our tax base and improve quality of life. Our responsibilities include issuing bonds, facilitating public-private partnerships, supporting industrial and commercial development, and utilizing statutory tools such as sales tax exemptions to make transformative projects financially viable.

House Bill 147 proposes changes to Ohio law that would restrict or eliminate the ability of port authorities to utilize the sales tax exemption on construction materials for certain development projects. While we understand the desire to review and standardize economic development incentives, this bill would significantly impair one of the most effective tools available to port authorities to catalyze investment in their communities.

The sales tax exemption is an important tool for the Clermont County Port Authority that we regularly utilize to advance projects that would not otherwise occur. For example, a recent housing study revealed that Clermont County faces a shortage of multi-family and workforce housing. Access to the sales tax exemption is often the critical incentive that allows developers to close financing gaps and move forward with housing projects that meet the needs of working families. Removing or limiting this tool would make it substantially more difficult to address our housing shortage and remain competitive with neighboring communities.

Additionally, the county utilizes fees generated through our port authority structures to fund impactful public projects. These revenues have supported initiatives such as the construction of a practice facility for F.C. Cincinnati and collaboration with the City of Milford to extend a sewer line to county residents who previously did not have access to sewer service. These are the types of catalytic infrastructure investments that strengthen communities and improve quality of life.

Limiting the port authority's ability to structure projects would directly affect our capacity to generate these resources.

The sales tax revenue generated through these projects is also utilized by the county to support bond financing. Bond proceeds fund infrastructure and development initiatives that create jobs and expand the local tax base. HB 147 would undermine the financial structures that make these bond transactions possible, potentially jeopardizing future economic development and infrastructure improvements in Clermont County.

Finally, local control is critically important to Clermont County. Our elected officials and local stakeholders are best positioned to evaluate which tools are appropriate for our market conditions and development goals. Port authorities operate transparently and under statutory authority granted by the General Assembly. Curtailing local flexibility through a statewide mandate would limit our ability to respond to local economic realities.

For these reasons, the Clermont County Port Authority respectfully opposes House Bill 147. We believe the bill would hinder economic development, limit housing opportunities, reduce infrastructure investment, and constrain local decision-making authority.

Chairman Hoops and members of the committee, thank you again for your consideration of our opponent testimony and for your continued commitment to fostering economic development across Ohio. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.