

Chairman Brian Stewart

77 S. High St. 13th Floor

Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Interested Party Testimony on Sub-House Bill 96

Dear Chairman Stewart,

Thanks to you and your committee members for all your hard work on the Ohio biennial budget. I know you've put in countless hours to get to this point. I'm writing you in my role as President of the Board of Trustees of the Ohio History Connection. I want to associate my comments with those of Megan Wood, our CEO and Executive Director.

Thank you for your past and present support of the organization, the State Historic Preservation Office and our World Heritage sites.

Over the past several years the Ohio History Connection has done a significant amount of outreach and research on the nature of the Ohio sites system. As you know, the relationship varies among the sites and the OHC. Through their analysis, adequate funding for our sites total is \$15 million across all 58 sites. It is certainly our hope to keep those sites funded and a vibrant part of their community, often in rural areas of Ohio.

A second concern is the work that Ohio History Connection does on their online textbook entitled *Ohio as America*. This resource is used to assist our schools as they teach Ohio history to 4th graders. The Governor's proposal of \$1.96 million in FY 26 and \$1.96 million in FY 27 is to ensure that Ohio history is taught adequately to all 122,000 4th grade students throughout Ohio.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of these matters. We look forward to continuing to work with you as the state's history partner.

Charles R. Moses