



June 9, 2025

The Honorable Angela King
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Opposition to House Bill 113 – Proposed Changes to Annexation Governance

Dear Representative King:

We are writing on behalf of the Village of Plain City to respectfully express our serious concerns and firm opposition to the annexation provisions outlined in the current draft of House Bill 113.

As a municipality on the front lines of development, growth management, and public service delivery, we are alarmed by the bill's proposed changes to Ohio's annexation framework — particularly the revisions to expedited Type 2 procedures. The cumulative effect of these changes would significantly limit the ability of municipalities to plan for and responsibly manage growth, while centralizing critical local decisions at the county level. This shift away from home rule authority undermines the very foundation of municipal governance in Ohio.

Requiring an annexation to serve the “general good,” as determined by county commissioners, places an unwarranted and ambiguous standard on what has historically been a local planning decision. This provision not only introduces subjective interpretation into an already complex process, but also diminishes the voice of municipal officials, voters, and property owners.

Further, reducing the maximum allowable acreage for expedited annexations from 500 to 200 and increasing the contiguous boundary requirement from 5% to 20% may effectively stall thoughtful and strategic municipal growth, especially in communities like ours that are actively coordinating infrastructure investment, economic development, and school partnerships across multiple jurisdictions.

In addition, this bill places disproportionate power in the hands of townships, without requiring or even encouraging them to collaborate meaningfully on shared projects or services. This dynamic sets up a combative, zero-sum environment where townships are empowered to obstruct rather than engage. It also creates fertile ground for conflicts and litigation between counties and municipalities despite the fact that counties have the least to lose under a Type 2 annexation scenario. Municipalities, on the other hand, take on the direct financial, infrastructural, and service-related obligations that come with development.

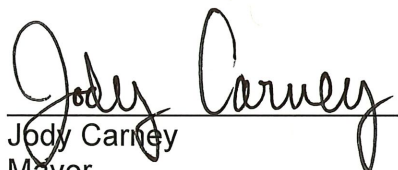


The bill, as drafted, ignores this reality and effectively penalizes cities and villages for doing the work of managing growth.

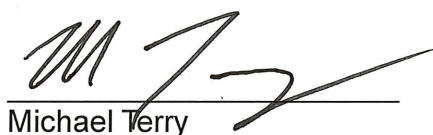
Respectfully, we urge you to reconsider and oppose this legislation in its current form. It restricts local control, complicates coordinated regional planning, and risks chilling economic development and job creation. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate on thoughtful reforms that truly support community development. But this bill, as drafted, threatens to do more harm than good.

Thank you for your attention and continued service to Ohio's communities.


Sincerely,



Jody Carney
Mayor



Michael Terry
Council President



Haley Lupton
Administrator



Jason Stanford
Development Director

cc: Members, Ohio House Local Government Committee
Representative Brian Stewart
Representative Tracy Richardson