

**Ohio Senate  
Housing Committee  
Senate Bill 192 – Interested Party Testimony  
May 13, 2025**

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Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Timken, Ranking Member Craig, and members of the Senate Committee on Housing, thank you for the opportunity to testify as an interested party on Senate Bill 192, which declares the intent of the Ohio General Assembly to provide funding for housing in rural counties. I am Misty Crosby, retired Executive Director of a regional council of governments located in rural southeastern Ohio, where I spent 32 years in service to rural Appalachian Ohio counties.

I am very interested in Senate Bill 192 and the positive impacts its implementation could have in rural communities, specifically the communities within the 32 federally-designated Appalachian Counties, and a subset of 26 counties whose municipalities are members of the Mayors' Partnership for Progress. While the bill is a commendable step towards addressing rural housing needs, I believe there are several areas where it can be strengthened to ensure its effectiveness and enforceability.

First, stating the defining population or characteristics of rural counties would help to further clarify the targeted communities and ensure transparency of the intent of the legislature to further housing development in rural areas of the state. Additionally, setting clear, measurable targets for the number of housing units to be developed, repaired, or upgraded in rural counties will help in tracking progress and ensuring accountability. Including provisions to guarantee funding is distributed equitably across rural counties by factoring in poverty rates, population size, and availability of public infrastructure,

including broadband access would provide additional transparency of intent and strengthen the commitment to rural Ohio communities.

Thank you for your attention to these recommendations. I remain committed to collaborating with state legislators and stakeholders to develop effective housing solutions that address the unique challenges and opportunities in rural areas and make a meaningful impact on rural housing in Ohio.