



**OHIO SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**  
**February 19, 2025**

**Written Proponent Testimony**  
**Senate Bill 29**

Chair O'Brien, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Ohio Senate Local Government Committee:

My name is Kent Scarrett, and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Municipal League. On behalf of the Ohio Municipal League, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony regarding the Ohio Municipal League's support for Senate Bill 29, which would allow joint economic development districts (JEDDs) to be formed by multiple municipalities.

One of the key pillars in the partnership of state and local governments in Ohio is the state's willingness to provide the locals with the resources and flexibility they need to be effective, to experience economic growth, and to serve their residents and businesses.

Since the Legislature's creation of JEDDs three decades ago, many of Ohio's municipalities have teamed up with their neighboring townships to take advantage of this economic development tool and enhance their communities.

JEDDs are an example of a successful tool through which local governments are experiencing greater success and, in turn, making Ohio a stronger state with a higher quality of life. But as the LSC analysis of the bill states, "it is unclear whether such a municipality-exclusive JEDD is permissible under current law."

By supporting SB75, the ability to form a JEDD will clearly apply to two or more municipalities and thereby be of greater benefit to more people and places thanks to the stream of development revenue it produces.

We appreciate Senator Blessing and Senator Ingram for sponsoring Senate Bill 29 and responding to the needs of municipalities.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for this legislation.