

City of Cincinnati



Mayor John Cranley

Feb. 19, 2015

State Rep. Tim W. Brown,
77 S. High St.
13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Brown:

I'm writing to let you know about my strong support for House Bill 47, which is pending before the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee.

If approved, H.B. 47 would allow some cities and townships to create outdoor refreshment areas and exempt persons within those areas from Ohio's open container law. Cincinnati would benefit greatly from such a change when the city hosts Major League Baseball's All-Star Game in July.

As you may know, the All-Star Game will be held at Great American Ball Park located in The Banks entertainment district along the Ohio River. The City of Cincinnati and the State of Ohio has invested millions of dollars during the past decade in revitalizing our riverfront area, which is now home to several restaurants and bars, among other attractions. The Reds organization and many business owners have requested the change allowed in H.B. 47 to help attract more tourists during All-Star Week festivities.

I agree with many of our local business owners who say H.B. 47 should be considered an economic development tool. Ohio is at a competitive disadvantage in attracting large events and conventions when compared to cities in other states that allow people to carry alcohol outdoors in a designated area.

H.B. 47 would empower Ohio's cities and townships to create new revenue streams, if they so choose. I urge you and your colleagues to approve this important measure.

Sincerely,

John J. Cranley,
Mayor of Cincinnati