



# Ohio Municipal League

*Our Cities and Villages ★ Bringing Ohio to Life*

March 16, 2015

Chairman Tim Brown  
House Government Accountability & Oversight Committee

Dear Chairman Brown:

The Ohio Municipal League would like to share with you and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee our support for legislation before your committee, sub. HB47.

As committee members are aware, sub. HB 47 would allow municipal corporations and townships with populations over 25,000 to create a designated outdoor refreshment area in which individuals will be exempt from Ohio's open container law, within the designated area. Many League members have expressed a great deal of interest in this new resource to provide an enhanced social experience for residents and non residents while encouraging greater opportunities for economic development in their communities.

Although the Ohio Municipal League supports the legislation, we have been contacted by concerned municipal leaders whose population levels are below 25,000 residents and would be excluded from the current proposal. Officials from these communities would appreciate the same ability as other municipalities to create a unique entertainment experience and encourage more tourism and interest in their community's activities such as outdoor concerts and other social events, through the use of refreshment areas being discussed.

For this reason, we ask committee members to consider amending the current language by removing the arbitrarily population requirement included in sub. HB 47. Ohio's cities and villages, of all sizes, have a long history of providing a safe and attractive environment for residents and visitors alike who attend entertainment and other civic events in their communities. Because the legislation is permissive and allows municipal corporations the ability to establish requirements within a newly created refreshment area and to modify conditions when appropriate, our municipal safety forces would have the authority they need to ensure the public's safety at events or circumstances where a refreshment area would be established.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight committee OML's support for sub. HB 47 and the desire for communities of all sizes interested in expanding economic partnerships through social and civic entertainment venues the same statutory ability uniformly.

Sincerely,

Susan Cave  
OML Executive Director