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**PROPONENT TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 225**  
**Keary McCarthy, Executive Director**  
**December 7, 2021**

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chairman Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes and members of the Senate Finance Committee, on behalf of the Ohio Mayors Alliance, a bipartisan coalition of mayors in Ohio's largest cities and suburbs, I write to you today in support of SB 225. As mayors with many concerns about economic development and historic preservation, we must do all we can to provide cities with the resources needed to spur this development and the development of the state.

We submit this proponent testimony today on behalf of the residents of our cities and our mayors who witness firsthand the need for a greater investment in redevelopment of historic buildings in their cities. Ohio is full of cities engulfed in beauty and history that give these cities character and charm that cannot be matched. It is disheartening to see historic locations being left vacant or demolished. We are pleased that SB 225 proposes to increase the historic building rehabilitation tax credit from \$60 million to \$120 million for the next two years.

Additionally, the bill provides three temporary credit enhancements. They include an increase in the credit amount for projects that are not located in large municipalities, increasing the maximum annual credit that may be claimed for a single project to \$10 million, and allows a full refund of any credit amount exceeding the tax, up to the \$10 million annual limit. These credit enhancements will allow cities both large and small to break ground on redevelopment projects at a scale larger than ever before.

In addition to the temporary credit enhancements, the bill expands the eligibility to receive an Ohio opportunity zone investment income tax credit allocation. This will further incentivize taxpayers in economically distressed areas to invest in redevelopment projects to improve their neighborhoods. This will allow for a larger number of cities to take part in a large wave of redevelopment projects that will help to restore historic and legacy cities.

OMA represents many of Ohio's legacy cities, including Akron, Dayton, Lima, and Youngstown. These cities have unfortunately seen numerous historic buildings be left vacant or demolished over the past few years. The Schwebel's Baking company building in Youngstown, the historic Hughes-Russell mansion in Lima, the abandoned history Werner castle in Akron, and the planned demolition of the historic Wright brothers bike shop in Dayton have all fallen victim to a lack of attention to the preservation of historic locations in Ohio. Watching pieces of history being erased is difficult for the residents and mayors of these cities. We urge the committee to vote yes on SB 225 and help us preserve the vast history of our cities.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keary McCarthy", written over a horizontal line.

Keary McCarthy  
Executive Director, Ohio Mayors Alliance