

TO: The Honorable Marlene Anielski, Chair of the

State and Local Government Committee

The Honorable Thomas West

FROM: Gus Frangos, President and General Counsel

DATE: June 19, 2018

RE: H.B. 598

The Cuyahoga Land Bank supports H.B. 598 because it gives Auditors needed flexibility with the timing, location and content of their Auditor forfeiture sales.

Auditor sales can sometimes be costly to advertise in smaller counties having small numbers of forfeited properties. H.B. 598 would allow Auditors to manage these costs in a more efficient way. Additionally, forfeited properties often attract unwholesome land speculation. Municipalities, counties and land banks work very hard to make forfeited properties productive and placed back on the tax duplicate through responsible transfers. Many of these efforts extend across multiple forfeiture sale cycles, and therefore Auditors and political subdivisions need to have flexibility as to the propriety of placing these properties into speculative sale auctions.

Thank you,

Gus Frangos, President and General Counsel

GF/jmk