**Sub. House Bill 500 Written Proponent Testimony**

**Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs Committee**

**November 26, 2018**

Chairman Uecker and members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of Sub. House Bill 500.

My name is Barry Tiffany and I have the honor as serving as the Township Administrator for Sugarcreek Township in Greene County.

House Bill 77 signed by then Governor George Voinovich on June 18, 1991 allowed townships in the Ohio to adopt limited home rule, following prescribed procedures outlined in Ohio Revised Code (R.C.) §504.01. Limited home rule grants extensive powers allowing a township and its residents to be more proactive in creating legislation of benefit to those in the community. It also permits townships to pass resolutions to improve health, safety and the welfare of its citizens.

Limited home rule addresses the fact that some townships have evolved from the basic responsibility of providing for road maintenance (the largest function of most townships today) to providing expanded services to residents as their populations have grown. Many townships in Ohio that have adopted limited home rule employ professional planning staffs and this testimony addresses changes proposed by Sub. House Bill 500 as applied to County and Regional Planning Commissions. Township planners are at the forefront of economic development in Ohio. They review complex land plans and serve a pivotal role in their communities. To require zoning amendments to be reviewed by county planners prior to being considered by Township Zoning Commissions in limited home rule townships is redundant and it adds a level of unnecessary bureaucracy to processes imperative to economic development.

Townships are engines of economic development in the State of Ohio. Development proposals are often times constrained by deadlines for due diligence and zoning approval periods. Unexpected delays can derail projects and have real, significant consequences. Sub. House Bill 500 allows limited home rule townships to continue to do the important job of fostering growth, prosperity and progress in this great State.

I am happy to answer any questions that you may have regarding this testimony.

Barry Tiffany, Township Administrator