

**TIM DEGEETER**  
MAYOR

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June 24, 2019



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Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder  
77 South High Street  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH. 43215

Dear Speaker Householder:

As mayor, I'm writing to express my support for H.B. 252, which would make available \$50 million for the state's land banks for demolishing vacant and abandoned structures.

This funding is critical for cities such as Parma because municipalities devote a significant share of local government resources toward tackling blighted conditions, whether through the work of code enforcement or safety forces. Further, vacant and abandoned homes weaken neighborhoods, lowering property values and creating the potential for criminal activity.

Along with code enforcement, Parma's demolition program – in partnership with Cuyahoga County and the Cuyahoga Land Bank – has been effective in helping keep our neighborhoods strong and stable. Since 2008, we have demolished more than 100 homes. Our program has realized significant results as there were only seven houses listed last year as distressed in the city.

However, more can be accomplished in Parma and in other cities across Ohio. The additional funding provided by H.B. 252 will provide cities with an infusion of much-needed resources to help get the job done. As Parma mayor, I stand with my counterparts in the county and throughout the state in support of H.B. 252.

Thank you for your consideration. And if you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim DeGeeter', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter  
City of Parma

cc: State Representative Paul Zeltwanger, Chair, Economic and Workforce Development Committee  
State Representative Dave Greenspan