

Before the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee
Proponent Testimony on SB 95
December 16, 2020

Chair Merrin, Vice-Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the Ohio House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee:


Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 95 (Enhance tax inducements for fixed asset and employment investment). On behalf of the Columbus Partnership, I am writing this testimony today with Kenny McDonald, President and CEO of One Columbus. The Columbus Partnership is a non-profit, membership-based leadership organization of 75 chairpersons, chief executive officers and senior executives from the Region's leading businesses and institutions. Our members include 15 Fortune 1000 CEOs, as well as the leaders of the nation's largest university and world's largest research and development organization. We work in partnership with One Columbus, which serves as the economic development organization for the 11-county Columbus Region, working to generate opportunity and build capacity for economic growth.

Communities across Ohio continue to compete with those around the United States and the world to retain existing employers and to secure new economic base investment. Due to Ohio's location, business environment, talented workforce and renowned institutions, it is often in consideration for projects of every size in a variety of industries. Occasionally, Ohio is considered for particularly large and meaningful projects that would significantly impact the state's economy and workforce in a positive way. We have been the beneficiary of these projects and continue to see their daily impact across the state. A great example from the Columbus Region is Honda, who was recruited four decades ago and continues to reward Ohio with jobs and investment to this day.

There will continue to be high-impact capital investment projects being considered within the United States as companies seek scale and efficiency to their operations and in their efforts to win talent. While Ohio has some inherent business advantages, we also have deficiencies and inequities in our overall business and tax environment that must be addressed if we are to compete for projects that not only bring huge payrolls and capital investment but also enhanced economic multipliers. We believe that Senate Bill 95 will send a signal that Ohio wants to be strongly considered for significant, market-changing projects as we recover from this global pandemic. With Senate Bill 95, Ohio is showing that we are taking a thoughtful, performance-based and future-oriented view toward business and innovation.

We are grateful for the Senate's bipartisan and unanimous effort passing this bill, and we hope to see similar action and support in the House. We look forward to working with all of you to continue creating a dynamic and growing economy here in Ohio and appreciate the opportunity to testify on behalf of this important bill.

Thank you for your consideration.


Alex R. Fischer
President and CEO, Columbus Partnership
ARF/gb


Kenny McDonald
President and CEO, One Columbus