



September 11, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Adams County Land Bank is writing to provide our strong support for HB 755 and SB 356 which will allow Land Banks to continue their work to eliminate blight, provide affordable housing opportunities and promoting economic development.

As you know, land banks may only be started with the approval of county commissioners. We trust that the 57 counties that have approved land banks will serve as a testament to the critical work of land banks, and the broad support we receive from our Commissioners throughout the State.

We urge the General Assembly to expeditiously pass these bills. We are happy to share with you examples of some of the transformational work we have been able to accomplish through our Adams County Land Bank. Please accept our wholehearted support for this legislation.

Respectfully,

Ty R. Pell, President  
Adams County Land Bank





copy

605 Westlake Drive, Ashland OH 44805

[www.ashlandlandbank.org](http://www.ashlandlandbank.org)

419.903.0201

October 29, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

Thank you for sponsoring HB 755 and SB 356 which will assist Ohio's 57 county land banks in continuing their work to eliminate blight, provide affordable housing opportunities and promoting economic development.

The Ohio Land Bank Association and its membership have accomplished many things. In the aftermath of the foreclosure crisis, tens of thousands of abandoned, blighted properties have been cleared; thousands of homes have been renovated, and formerly unproductive lots have been assembled into numerous job creating economic development projects.

We would be happy to share with you some of the many success stories of the Ashland County Land Bank. Please accept our wholehearted support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ann Wurster'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ann Wurster  
Ashland Land Bank Board President





605 Westlake Drive, Ashland OH 44805  
www.ashlandlandbank.org  
419.903.0201

October 29, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Ashland County Land Bank is writing to provide our strong support for HB 755 and SB 356. The bills are designed to clarify sections of the Revised Code relating to land banking practice. As one of 57 land banks in the State of Ohio, we appreciate the General Assembly's willingness to help us deal with vacant and abandoned properties, support our county's tax base and improve the quality of life for our county citizens.

As you know, land banks may only be started with the approval of county commissioners. We trust that the 57 counties that have approved land banks will serve as a testament to the critical work of land banks, and the broad support we receive from our Commissioners throughout the State.

We urge the General Assembly to expeditiously pass these bills. We are happy to share with you examples of some of the transformational work we have been able to accomplish through our Ashland County Land Bank.

Respectfully,

Denny D. Bittle  
Ashland County Commissioner





605 Westlake Drive, Ashland OH 44805  
www.ashlandlandbank.org  
419.903.0201

October 29, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

*Matt/you -  
Thank you for sponsoring  
these bills! They matter.  
Matt Miller*

*Tom*

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

Thank you for sponsoring HB 755 and SB 356 which will assist Ohio's 57 county land banks in continuing their work to eliminate blight, provide affordable housing opportunities and promoting economic development.

The Ohio Land Bank Association and its membership have accomplished many things. In the aftermath of the foreclosure crisis, tens of thousands of abandoned, blighted properties have been cleared; thousands of homes have been renovated, and formerly unproductive lots have been assembled into numerous job creating economic development projects.

We would be happy to share with you some of the many success stories of the Ashland County Land Bank. Please accept our wholehearted support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

*Matt Miller*

Matt Miller  
City of Ashland Mayor  
Ashland Land Bank Board Vice-President

*Matt and Tom -  
The Land Bank truly has given us an effective  
tool to clean up our city. Our local residents have celebrated  
with great joy the restoration of their neighborhoods  
since we have been able to remove long-standing,  
property value-decreasing, abandoned  
eyesores due to our land  
bank. Matt*





605 Westlake Drive, Ashland OH 44805  
www.ashlandlandbank.org  
419.903.0201

October 29, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Ashland Land Bank was established in 2018. The General Assembly of Ohio was the first in the United States to pass land bank legislation that encompassed comprehensive land repurposing for vacant and abandoned land, tax foreclosure reforms, and responsible funding. On the national level, our counterparts look to the Ohio General Assembly as the leader and the gold standard in land banking policy.

We are grateful to see that once again Ohio is showing leadership by refining our original land bank legislation in 2009. S.B. 356 and H.B. 755 will enhance our ability to reclaim the tax base in distressed parts of our county as well as improve neighborhoods. We profoundly thank you for your leadership and wholeheartedly support this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Erin A. Collins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Erin A. Collins  
Ashland Land Bank Director





September 10, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Athens County Land Bank is writing to provide our strong support for HB 755 and SB 356. The bills are designed to clarify sections of the Revised Code relating to land banking practice. As one of 57 land banks in the State of Ohio, we appreciate the General Assembly's willingness to help us deal with vacant and abandoned properties, support our county's tax base and improve the quality of life for our county citizens.

As you know, land banks may only be started with the approval of county commissioners. We trust that the 57 counties that have approved land banks will serve as a testament to the critical work of land banks, and the broad support we receive from our Commissioners throughout the State.

We urge the General Assembly to expeditiously pass these bills. We are happy to share with you examples of some of the transformational work we have been able to accomplish through our Athens County Land Bank.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ric Wasserman", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Ric Wasserman  
Chair, Athens County Land Bank



COMMUNITY STABILIZATION  
ADMINISTRATOR  
Mary Kathy Dudley

315 High Street, 6th Floor  
Hamilton, Ohio 45011

513.887.3255  
mary.dudley@bcoho.us

www.bcoho.us



September 25, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

Thank you for your leadership in sponsoring HB 755 and SB 356 which will assist Ohio's land banks in continuing their work to eliminate blight, provide affordable housing and promote economic development.

The 2008 foreclosure crisis and its aftermath left Ohio facing tens of thousands of abandoned, blighted properties. While all of the cities were hard hit, no county has escaped the aftermath and all have had to spend resources to deal with these issues at great cost to the local taxpayer.

The existing land bank legislation has provided much needed tools for county leaders in the fifty-seven counties which have created land banks. Driven by local leaders, each county is able to address those problems using the legal framework provided by the legislature.

The changes your bills are proposing will provide additional tools for our leaders to provide needed solutions for Ohio citizens to deal with blight and provide opportunities to develop a new future for our citizens.

We would be happy to share with you some of the many success stories of the Butler County Land Bank. Please accept our wholehearted support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mary K. Dudley'.

Mary K. Dudley  
President, Butler County Land Reutilization Corporation

COMMISSIONER  
Donald L. Dixon

COMMISSIONER  
Cindy Carpenter

COMMISSIONER  
T.C. Rogers





CLARK COUNTY  
**Land Reutilization**  
CORPORATION

3130 E Main St, Suite 1-A  
Springfield, OH 45505  
phone (937) 521-2160  
fax (937) 328-2621

11/4/2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Clark County Land Bank was established in 2014. The General Assembly of Ohio was the first in the United States to pass land bank legislation that encompassed comprehensive land repurposing for vacant and abandoned land, tax foreclosure reforms, and responsible funding. On the national level, our counterparts look to the Ohio General Assembly as the leader and the gold standard in land banking policy.

We are grateful to see that once again Ohio is showing leadership by refining our original land bank legislation in 2009. S.B. 356 and H.B. 755 will enhance our ability to reclaim the tax base in distressed parts of our county as well as improve neighborhoods. We profoundly thank you for your leadership and wholeheartedly support this legislation.

Sincerely,

  
Joyce Chilton  
Chairperson of the Board





Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation

September 14, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

On behalf of the Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation (COCIC) which serves as the Franklin County Land Bank, thank you for sponsoring HB 755 and SB 356 which will assist Ohio's 57 county land banks in continuing their work to eliminate blight, provide affordable housing opportunities and promoting economic development.

The Ohio Land Bank Association and its membership have accomplished many things. In the aftermath of the foreclosure crisis, tens of thousands of abandoned, blighted properties have been cleared; thousands of homes have been renovated, and formerly unproductive lots have been assembled into numerous job creating economic development projects.

We would be happy to share with you some of the many success stories of COCIC. Please accept our wholehearted support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Curtiss L. Williams'.

Curtiss L. Williams  
President & CEO

cc: Chair, The Honorable Cheryl Brooks Sullivan

845 Parsons Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43206

Direct 614 724 4938 Mobile: 614 554 6179 Email: [cwilliams@cocic.org](mailto:cwilliams@cocic.org)



112 East Mansfield Street  
Suite 207  
Bucyrus Ohio 44820

**Crawford County  
Land Reutilization  
Corporation**

[www.crawfordcountylandbank.com](http://www.crawfordcountylandbank.com)

Ph: 419-562-7861

FAX: 419-562-3171

Email: [cclb@crawford-co.org](mailto:cclb@crawford-co.org)

Board Members: Cindy Edwards/Chairman Doug Weisenauer Tim Ley Jeff Reser Jennifer Kuns Bob Johnston Kevin Myers  
Staff: Barb McCullough/Manager

---

October 28, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Crawford Land Bank was established in 2015. The General Assembly of Ohio was the first in the United States to pass land bank legislation that encompassed comprehensive land repurposing for vacant and abandoned land, tax foreclosure reforms, and responsible funding. On the national level, our counterparts look to the Ohio General Assembly as the leader and the gold standard in land banking policy.

We are grateful to see that once again Ohio is showing leadership by refining our original land bank legislation in 2009. S.B. 356 and H.B. 755 will enhance our ability to reclaim the tax base in distressed parts of our county as well as improve neighborhoods. We profoundly thank you for your leadership and wholeheartedly support this legislation.

Sincerely,



Barb McCullough





**MICHAEL RINGLE**  
DELAWARE COUNTY TREASURER

9/9/2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Delaware County Land Bank was established in 2018. The General Assembly of Ohio was the first in the United States to pass land bank legislation that encompassed comprehensive land repurposing for vacant and abandoned land, tax foreclosure reforms, and responsible funding. On the national level, our counterparts look to the Ohio General Assembly as the leader and the gold standard in land banking policy.

We are grateful to see that once again Ohio is showing leadership by refining our original land bank legislation from 2009. S.B. 356 and H.B. 755, As Introduced, will enhance our ability to reclaim the tax base in distressed parts of Ohio as well as improve neighborhoods. I profoundly thank you for your leadership and wholeheartedly support this legislation.

Sincerely,

*Michael Ringle*

Michael Ringle, Esq.



**Erie County Land  
Reutilization  
Corporation  
(ECLRC)**

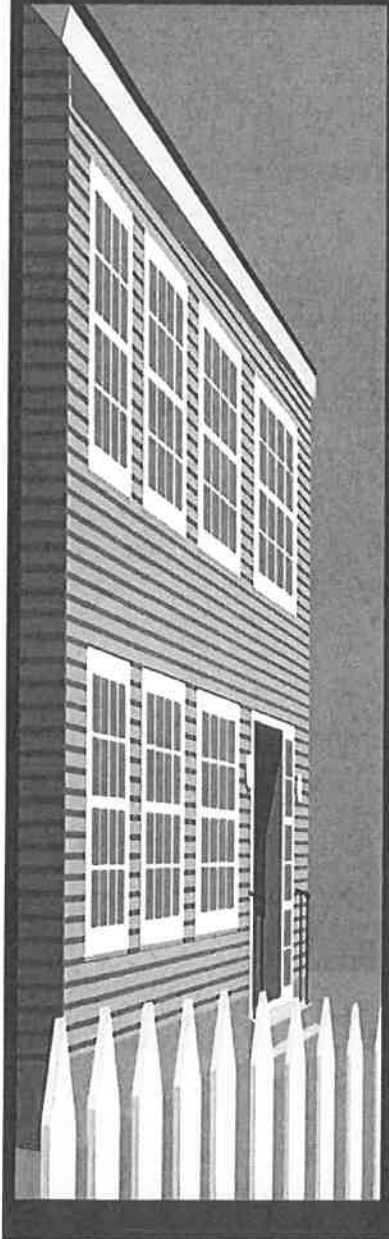
**2900 Columbus Avenue  
Sandusky, Ohio 44870**

**Contact: Steve Poggiali  
SteveP@eriecounty.oh.gov**

**419.627.6671—p**

**419.627.6670—f**

***Building Erie County  
One House At A Time....***



September 15, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

Thank you for sponsoring HB 755 and SB 356 which will assist Ohio's 57 county land banks in continuing their work to eliminate blight, provide affordable housing opportunities and promoting economic development.

The Ohio Land Bank Association and its membership have accomplished many things. In the aftermath of the foreclosure crisis, tens of thousands of abandoned, blighted properties have been cleared; thousands of homes have been renovated, and formerly unproductive lots have been assembled into numerous job creating economic development projects.

We would be happy to share with you some of the many success stories of the Erie County Land Bank. Please accept our wholehearted support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

Patrick Shenigo  
Erie County Land Bank, Chairman



# FAIRFIELD COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION

210 E. MAIN STREET, ROOM 206  
LANCASTER, OHIO 43130  
740-652-7146

October 28, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Fairfield County Land Reutilization Corporation (Land Bank) is writing to provide our strong support for HB 755 and SB 356. The bills are designed to clarify sections of the Revised Code relating to land banking practice. As one of 57 land banks in the State of Ohio, we appreciate the General Assembly's willingness to help us deal with vacant and abandoned properties, support our county's tax base and improve the quality of life for our county citizens.

As you know, land banks may only be started with the approval of county commissioners. We trust that the 57 counties that have approved land banks will serve as a testament to the critical work of land banks, and the broad support we receive from our Commissioners throughout the State.

We urge the General Assembly to expeditiously pass these bills. We are happy to share with you examples of some of the transformational work we have been able to accomplish through our Fairfield County Land Bank.

Respectfully,



Michael J. Kaper  
Executive Director





September 4, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1st Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Hamilton County Land Bank was established in 2012. The General Assembly of Ohio was the first in the United States to pass land bank legislation that encompassed comprehensive land repurposing for vacant and abandoned land, tax foreclosure reforms, and responsible funding. On the national level, our counterparts look to the Ohio General Assembly as the leader and the gold standard in land banking policy.

We are grateful to see that once again Ohio is showing leadership by refining our original land bank legislation in 2009. S.B. 356 and H.B. 755 will enhance our ability to reclaim the tax base in distressed parts of our county as well as improve neighborhoods. We profoundly thank you for your leadership and wholeheartedly support this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jessica Powell'.

Jessica Powell  
Vice President of the Landbank  
(513) 632-3760  
jpowell@cincinnatiport.org





September 4, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1st Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

Thank you for sponsoring HB 755 and SB 356 which will assist Ohio's 57 county land banks in continuing their work to eliminate blight, provide affordable housing opportunities and promoting economic development.

The Ohio Land Bank Association and its membership have accomplished many things. In the aftermath of the foreclosure crisis, tens of thousands of abandoned, blighted properties have been cleared; thousands of homes have been renovated, and formerly unproductive lots have been assembled into numerous job creating economic development projects.

We would be happy to share with you some of the many success stories of the Hamilton County Land Bank. Please accept our wholehearted support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jessica Powell'.

Jessica Powell  
Vice President of the Landbank  
(513) 632-3760  
jpowell@cincinnatiport.org





September 4, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1st Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Hamilton County Land Bank is writing to provide our strong support for HB 755 and SB 356. The bills are designed to clarify sections of the Revised Code relating to land banking practice. As one of 57 land banks in the State of Ohio, we appreciate the General Assembly's willingness to help us deal with vacant and abandoned properties, support our county's tax base and improve the quality of life for our county citizens.

As you know, land banks may only be started with the approval of county commissioners. We trust that the 57 counties that have approved land banks will serve as a testament to the critical work of land banks, and the broad support we receive from our Commissioners throughout the State.

We urge the General Assembly to expeditiously pass these bills. We are happy to share with you examples of some of the transformational work we have been able to accomplish through our Hamilton County Land Bank.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jessica Powell'.

Jessica Powell  
Vice President of the Landbank  
(513) 632-3760  
jpowell@cincinnatiport.org





**Jefferson County Land Bank**  
301 Market Street, Room 105 (Treasurer) -- Steubenville, Ohio 43952  
Phone: 740-283-8572 -- Fax: 740-284-3343

September 10, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Jefferson Land Bank was established in 2014. The General Assembly of Ohio was the first in the United States to pass land bank legislation that encompassed comprehensive land repurposing for vacant and abandoned land, tax foreclosure reforms, and responsible funding. On the national level, our counterparts look to the Ohio General Assembly as the leader and the gold standard in land banking policy.

We are grateful to see that once again Ohio is showing leadership by refining our original land bank legislation in 2009. S.B. 356 and H.B. 755 will enhance our ability to reclaim the tax base in distressed parts of our county as well as improve neighborhoods. We profoundly thank you for your leadership and wholeheartedly support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Raymond M. Agresta  
Chairman

**Board of Directors:**

Raymond Agresta (Chairman), Dr. Thomas Graham, David Maple, Evan Scurti, Chris Petrossi





Area Development Foundation of Knox County  
Post Office Box 29  
507 West High Street  
Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050  
Phone: 740-393-3806  
[www.knoxadf.com](http://www.knoxadf.com)

---

9/14/2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Knox County Land Bank is writing to provide our strong support for HB 755 and SB 356. The bills are designed to clarify sections of the Revised Code relating to land banking practice. As one of 57 land banks in the State of Ohio, we appreciate the General Assembly's willingness to help us deal with vacant and abandoned properties, support our county's tax base and improve the quality of life for our county citizens.

As you know, land banks may only be started with the approval of county commissioners. We trust that the 57 counties that have approved land banks will serve as a testament to the critical work of land banks, and the broad support we receive from our Commissioners throughout the State.

We urge the General Assembly to expeditiously pass these bills. We are happy to share with you examples of some of the transformational work we have been able to accomplish through our Knox County Land Bank.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sam Filkins", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sam Filkins  
Vice President  
Knox County Land Bank





327 VERNON STREET  
IRONTON, OHIO 45638

STEPEHN D. BURCHAM: C.P.A./BOARD CHAIRMAN  
PHONE (740)-533-4303 FAX (740)-533-3320  
EMAIL: SBurcham@lawrencegov.org

THOMAS P. SCHNEIDER: ADIMINSTRATOR  
PHONE (740)-237-4187 FAX (740)-237-4591  
EMAIL: TSchneider@lawrencegov.org

10-28-2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Lawrence County Land Bank is writing to provide our strong support for HB 755 and SB 356. The bills are designed to clarify sections of the Revised Code relating to land banking practice. As one of 57 land banks in the State of Ohio, we appreciate the General Assembly's willingness to help us deal with vacant and abandoned properties, support our county's tax base and improve the quality of life for our county citizens.

As you know, land banks may only be started with the approval of county commissioners. We trust that the 57 counties that have approved land banks will serve as a testament to the critical work of land banks, and the broad support we receive from our Commissioners throughout the State.

We urge the General Assembly to expeditiously pass these bills. We are happy to share with you examples of some of the transformational work we have been able to accomplish through our Lawrence County Land Bank.

Respectfully,

Thomas Schneider, Lawrence County Land  
Reutilization Corporation





327 VERNON STREET  
IRONTON, OHIO 45638

STEPEHN D. BURCHAM: C.P.A./BOARD CHAIRMAN  
PHONE (740)-533-4303 FAX (740)-533-3320  
EMAIL: SBurcham@lawrencegov.org

THOMAS P. SCHNEIDER: ADIMINSTRATOR  
PHONE (740)-237-4187 FAX (740)-237-4591  
EMAIL: TSchneider@lawrencegov.org

10-28-2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

Thank you for sponsoring HB 755 and SB 356 which will assist Ohio's 57 county land banks in continuing their work to eliminate blight, provide affordable housing opportunities and promoting economic development.

The Ohio Land Bank Association and its membership have accomplished many things. In the aftermath of the foreclosure crisis, tens of thousands of abandoned, blighted properties have been cleared; thousands of homes have been renovated, and formerly unproductive lots have been assembled into numerous job creating economic development projects.

We would be happy to share with you some of the many success stories of the Lawrence County Land Bank. Please accept our wholehearted support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

Thomas Schneider, Lawrence County Land  
Reutilization Corporation





327 VERNON STREET  
IRONTON, OHIO 45638

STEPEHN D. BURCHAM: C.P.A./BOARD CHAIRMAN  
PHONE (740)-533-4303 FAX (740)-533-3320  
EMAIL: SBurcham@lawrencegov.org

THOMAS P. SCHNEIDER: ADMINSTRATOR  
PHONE (740)-237-4187 FAX (740)-237-4591  
EMAIL: TSchneider@lawrencegov.org

10-28-2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Lawrence County Land Bank was established in 2016. The General Assembly of Ohio was the first in the United States to pass land bank legislation that encompassed comprehensive land repurposing for vacant and abandoned land, tax foreclosure reforms, and responsible funding. On the national level, our counterparts look to the Ohio General Assembly as the leader and the gold standard in land banking policy.

We are grateful to see that once again Ohio is showing leadership by refining our original land bank legislation in 2009. S.B. 356 and H.B. 755 will enhance our ability to reclaim the tax base in distressed parts of our county as well as improve neighborhoods. We profoundly thank you for your leadership and wholeheartedly support this legislation.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas Schneider, Lawrence County Land  
Reutilization Corporation





**STEPHEN D. BURCHAM, CPA**  
**LAWRENCE COUNTY TREASURER**

---

111 SOUTH 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET, IRONTON, OHIO 45638  
(740)533-4305 (740)533-3820 FAX

10-28-2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

Thank you for sponsoring HB 755 and SB 356 which will assist Ohio's 57 county land banks in continuing their work to eliminate blight, provide affordable housing opportunities and promoting economic development.

As the elected Treasurer in Ashtabula County, I can attest that the Ohio Land Bank Association and its membership have accomplished many things through the vehicle of county land banks. The Ashtabula County Land Bank has provided indispensable support for our efforts to increase our county's tax base through the elimination of vacant and abandoned properties, and through the repurposing of delinquent lands into tax producing properties. On a statewide level, in the aftermath of the foreclosure crisis, tens of thousands of abandoned, blighted properties have been cleared; thousands of homes have been renovated, and formerly unproductive lots have been assembled into numerous job creating economic development projects.

As Treasurer of Lawrence County, please accept my wholehearted support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

Stephen Dale Burcham,  
Treasurer of Lawrence County &  
Chairman of the Lawrence County Land  
Reutilization Corporation





September 14, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Lucas County Land Bank was established in 2010, the second county land bank to form in Ohio. The General Assembly of Ohio was the first in the United States to pass land bank legislation that encompassed comprehensive land repurposing for vacant and abandoned land, tax foreclosure reforms, and responsible funding. On the national level, our counterparts look to the Ohio General Assembly as the leader and the gold standard in land banking policy.

During the past 10 years, our Land Bank has helped to return almost 5,000 previously abandoned properties to productive use and leveraged over \$50 million of public and private investment to strengthen neighborhoods. By using the legislative tools made available to land banks through the Ohio General Assembly's actions, we have made significant strides toward the betterment of Lucas County.

We are grateful to see that once again Ohio is showing leadership by refining our original land bank legislation in 2009. S.B. 356 and H.B. 755 will enhance our ability to reclaim the tax base in distressed parts of our county as well as improve neighborhoods. We profoundly thank you for your leadership and wholeheartedly support this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Mann", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

David Mann  
President & CEO





Sept. 30, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Mahoning County Land Bank was established in 2011. The General Assembly of Ohio was the first in the United States to pass land bank legislation that encompassed comprehensive land repurposing for vacant and abandoned land, tax foreclosure reforms, and responsible funding. On the national level, our counterparts look to the Ohio General Assembly as the leader and the gold standard in land banking policy.

We are grateful to see that once again Ohio is showing leadership by refining our original land bank legislation in 2009. S.B. 356 and H.B. 755 will enhance our ability to reclaim the tax base in distressed parts of our county as well as improve neighborhoods. We profoundly thank you for your leadership and wholeheartedly support this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Debora Flora".

Debora Flora  
Executive Director





September 10, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

Thank you for sponsoring HB 755 and SB 356 which will assist Ohio's 57 county land banks in continuing their work to eliminate blight, provide affordable housing opportunities and promoting economic development.

The Ohio Land Bank Association and its membership have accomplished many things. In the aftermath of the foreclosure crisis, tens of thousands of abandoned, blighted properties have been cleared; thousands of homes have been renovated, and formerly unproductive lots have been assembled into numerous job creating economic development projects.

We would be happy to share with you some of the many success stories of the Montgomery County Land Bank. Please accept our wholehearted support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

Michael Grauwelman  
Executive Director  
Montgomery County Land Bank





9.9.2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1st Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Muskingum County Land Reutilization Corporation is writing to provide our strong support for HB 755 and SB 356. The bills are designed to clarify sections of the Revised Code relating to land banking practice. As one of 57 land banks in the State of Ohio, we appreciate the General Assembly's willingness to help us deal with vacant and abandoned properties, support our county's tax base and improve the quality of life for our county citizens.

As you know, land banks may only be started with the approval of county commissioners. We trust that the 57 counties that have approved land banks will serve as a testament to the critical work of land banks, and the broad support we receive from our Commissioners throughout the State.

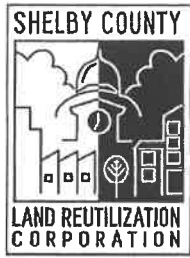
We urge the General Assembly to expeditiously pass these bills. We are happy to share with you examples of some of the transformational work we have been able to accomplish through the Muskingum County Land Reutilization Corporation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andy Roberts', enclosed within a light blue oval shape.

Andy Roberts  
MCLRC – Executive Director





*Shelby County Land Reutilization Corporation  
Shelby County Annex  
129 East Court Street  
Sidney, Ohio 45365*

September 9, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Shelby County Land Bank is writing to provide our strong support for HB 755 and SB 356. The bills are designed to clarify sections of the Revised Code relating to land banking practice. As one of 57 land banks in the State of Ohio, we appreciate the General Assembly's willingness to help us deal with vacant and abandoned properties, support our county's tax base and improve the quality of life for our county citizens.

As you know, land banks may only be started with the approval of county commissioners. We trust that the 57 counties that have approved land banks will serve as a testament to the critical work of land banks, and the broad support we receive from our Commissioners throughout the State.

We urge the General Assembly to expeditiously pass these bills. We are happy to share with you examples of some of the transformational work we have been able to accomplish through our Shelby County Land Bank.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas F. Ahlers", is written over a circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Douglas F. Ahlers  
Director





*Shelby County Land Reutilization Corporation  
Shelby County Annex  
129 East Court Street  
Sidney, Ohio 45365*

September 9, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

Thank you for sponsoring HB 755 and SB 356 which will assist Ohio's 57 county land banks in continuing their work to eliminate blight, provide affordable housing opportunities and promoting economic development.

The Ohio Land Bank Association and its membership have accomplished many things. In the aftermath of the foreclosure crisis, tens of thousands of abandoned, blighted properties have been cleared; thousands of homes have been renovated, and formerly unproductive lots have been assembled into numerous job creating economic development projects.

We would be happy to share with you some of the many success stories of the Shelby County Land Bank. Please accept our wholehearted support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas P. Ahlers", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Douglas P. Ahlers  
Director





*Shelby County Land Reutilization Corporation  
Shelby County Annex  
129 East Court Street  
Sidney, Ohio 45365*

September 9, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Shelby Land Bank was established in 2016. The General Assembly of Ohio was the first in the United States to pass land bank legislation that encompassed comprehensive land repurposing for vacant and abandoned land, tax foreclosure reforms, and responsible funding. On the national level, our counterparts look to the Ohio General Assembly as the leader and the gold standard in land banking policy.

We are grateful to see that once again Ohio is showing leadership by refining our original land bank legislation in 2009. S.B. 356 and H.B. 755 will enhance our ability to reclaim the tax base in distressed parts of our county as well as improve neighborhoods. We profoundly thank you for your leadership and wholeheartedly support this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Douglas P. Ahlers".

Douglas P. Ahlers  
Director





#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KRISTEN M. SCALISE CHAIR

ILENE SHAPIRO VICE CHAIR

ELIZABETH WALTERS

MARCO SOMMERVILLE

PAUL SCHWEIKERT

JERRY FEEMAN

SHORTER GRIFFIN

PATRICK BRAVO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1180 S Main St, Suite 230  
Akron, OH 44301  
330.926.2513

[SUMMITLANDBANK.ORG](http://SUMMITLANDBANK.ORG)

September 9, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

Established in 2012, the Summit County Land Bank works to strengthen neighborhoods and communities throughout Summit County, Ohio. The work we do supports local housing efforts and promotes community and economic development throughout our region.

Today, we are writing to provide our strong support for HB 755 and SB 356. This legislation is designed to clarify sections of the Revised Code relating to land banking practice. We appreciate the General Assembly's willingness to help us effectively address abandoned and blighted properties that negatively impact our community as we work to support and increase our county's tax base and improve the quality of life for our residents.

As you know, land banks are created by local government, with a mission to serve as a resource to the community. We trust that the 57 counties that have approved land banks, and those that are in the process of establishing them, will serve as a testament to the critical work we do and the broad support we receive from community leaders throughout the State.

We urge the General Assembly to expeditiously pass these bills. We are happy to share examples of some of the transformational work we have been able to accomplish through the Summit County Land Bank.

Respectfully,

Patrick L. Bravo, M.P.A., J.D.  
Executive Director



9/3/2020

**Trumbull  
County  
Land Bank**

736 Mahoning Ave NW  
Warren, OH 44483

330.469.6828

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Trumbull County Land Bank was established in October 2010. The General Assembly of Ohio was the first in the United States to pass land bank legislation that encompassed comprehensive land repurposing for vacant and abandoned land, tax foreclosure reforms, and responsible funding. On the national level, our counterparts look to the Ohio General Assembly as the leader and the gold standard in land banking policy.

We are grateful to see that once again Ohio is showing leadership by refining our original land bank legislation in 2009. S.B. 356 and H.B. 755 will enhance our ability to reclaim the tax base in distressed parts of our county as well as improve neighborhoods. We profoundly thank you for your leadership and wholeheartedly support this legislation.

Respectfully,



Shawn Carvin  
Director,  
Trumbull County Land Bank







TRUMBULL  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
PARTNERSHIP

tnpwarren.org  
matt@tnpwarren.org  
330.647.6301

9/3/2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership is writing to provide our strong support for HB 755 and SB 356. The bills are designed to clarify sections of the Revised Code relating to land banking practice. As a partner to one of 57 land banks in the State of Ohio, we appreciate the General Assembly's willingness to help us deal with vacant and abandoned properties, support our county's tax base and improve the quality of life for our county citizens.

As you know, land banks may only be started with the approval of county commissioners. We trust that the 57 counties that have approved land banks will serve as a testament to the critical work of land banks, and the broad support we receive from our Commissioners throughout the State.

We urge the General Assembly to expeditiously pass these bills. We are happy to share with you examples of some of the transformational work we have been able to accomplish through our partnership with the Trumbull County Land Bank.

Respectfully,

Matt Martin  
Executive Director,  
Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership

736 Mahoning Ave NW  
Warren, OH 44483





**Andrew J. Smarra**

Treasurer  
Union County, Ohio  
asmarra@co.union.oh.us



Union County Office Building  
233 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, P.O. Box 420  
Marysville, Ohio 43040-0420  
Phone: (937) 645-3035  
Fax: (937) 645-3094  
[www.co.union.oh.us/treasurer](http://www.co.union.oh.us/treasurer)

October 28, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Union County Land Bank is writing to provide our strong support for HB 755 and SB 356. The bills are designed to clarify sections of the Revised Code relating to land banking practice. As one of 57 land banks in the State of Ohio, we appreciate the General Assembly's willingness to help us deal with vacant and abandoned properties, support our county's tax base and improve the quality of life for our county citizens.

As you know, land banks may only be started with the approval of county commissioners. We trust that the 57 counties that have approved land banks will serve as a testament to the critical work of land banks, and the broad support we receive from our Commissioners throughout the State.

We urge the General Assembly to expeditiously pass these bills. We are happy to share with you examples of some of the transformational work we have been able to accomplish through our Union County Land Bank.

Respectfully,

*Andrew J. Smarra*

Andrew J. Smarra  
Union County Treasurer  
Union County Land Reutilization Corporation - President





# Williams County Treasurer

Kellie J. Gray

One Courthouse Square, Bryan, Ohio 43506

Phone: 419-636-1850 | Fax: 419-636-8584

Email: [kgray@wmsco.org](mailto:kgray@wmsco.org)

Website: [www.co.williams.oh.us/260/Treasurer](http://www.co.williams.oh.us/260/Treasurer)

10/28/20

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

Thank you for sponsoring HB 755 and SB 356 which will assist Ohio's 57 county land banks in continuing their work to eliminate blight, provide affordable housing opportunities and promoting economic development.

The Ohio Land Bank Association and its membership have accomplished many things. In the aftermath of the foreclosure crisis, tens of thousands of abandoned, blighted properties have been cleared; thousands of homes have been renovated, and formerly unproductive lots have been assembled into numerous job creating economic development projects.

We would be happy to share with you some of the many success stories of the Williams County Land Bank. Please accept our wholehearted support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

Kellie J. Gray  
Williams County Treasurer



## ***Coshocton County Treasurer's Office***

***Janette Donaker, Treasurer***

349 Main Street, Courthouse Annex

Coshocton, Ohio 43812

Telephone 740-295-7448

Fax # 740-622-6515

November 16, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

Thank you for sponsoring HB 755 and SB 356 which will assist Ohio's 57 county land banks in continuing their work to eliminate blight, provide affordable housing opportunities and promoting economic development.

As the elected Treasurer in Coshocton County, I can attest that the Ohio Land Bank Association and its membership have accomplished many things through the vehicle of county land banks. The Coshocton County Land Bank has provided indispensable support for our efforts to increase our county's tax base through the elimination of vacant and abandoned properties, and through the repurposing of delinquent lands into tax producing properties. On a statewide level, in the aftermath of the foreclosure crisis, tens of thousands of abandoned, blighted properties have been cleared; thousands of homes have been renovated, and formerly unproductive lots have been assembled into numerous job creating economic development projects.

As Treasurer of Coshocton County, please accept my wholehearted support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

Janette Donaker





## PORTAGE COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION

---

November 17, 2020

Honorable Matt Dolan  
1 Capitol Square – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Honorable Thomas F. Patton  
77 S. High Street – 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan and Representative Patton:

The Portage County Land Bank is writing to provide our strong support for HB 755 and SB 356. The bills are designed to clarify sections of the Revised Code relating to land banking practice. As one of 57 land banks in the State of Ohio, we appreciate the General Assembly's willingness to help us deal with vacant and abandoned properties, support our county's tax base and improve the quality of life for our county citizens.

As you know, land banks may only be started with the approval of county commissioners. We trust that the 57 counties that have approved land banks will serve as a testament to the critical work of land banks, and the broad support we receive from our Commissioners throughout the State.

We urge the General Assembly to expeditiously pass these bills. We are happy to share with you examples of some of the important work we have been able to accomplish through our Portage County Land Bank.

Sincerely,

Dan Morganti,  
Executive Director