



September 10, 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 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 black ink, appearing to read "Ric Wasserman", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ric Wasserman
Chair, Athens County Land Bank