



Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Proponent Testimony – Senate Bill 84 (Williams – Rulli)
Gus Frangos, President, Ohio Land Bank Association
March 23, 2021

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Chair Schaffer, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee: on behalf of the Ohio Land Bank Association, I write to you to provide proponent testimony for Senate Bill 84, legislation related to the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund, or CORF program.

The Ohio Land Bank Association (OLBA) is a nonprofit organization with the purpose of supporting the work of and advocating on behalf of all county land reutilization corporations, commonly known as county land banks, across Ohio. With 59 of Ohio’s 88 counties having land banks, OLBA serves as the collective, unified voice for Ohio’s county land banks.

OLBA and its 59-member county land banks recognize that distressed commercial and industrial properties, in both rural and urban areas, serve to paralyze future development on and around those sites. There are dozens of examples statewide that would benefit from the passage of Senate Bill 84. Our county land bank members have had some of these properties pass through their inventories and there are many more properties that our members would like to help bring back to productive use but lack the financial resources to do so.

Indeed, the kind of assistance contemplated by Senate Bill 84 would be transformative for communities large and small.

Additionally, we are grateful to the bill sponsors that Senate Bill 84 will make county land banks an eligible recipient of funds through the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund (CORF). CORF was authorized by Ohio voters in 2002, before Ohio’s 44 largest counties were statutorily authorized in 2010 to create county land banks. We appreciate that Senate Bill 84 explicitly provides Ohio’s county land banks with an additional avenue of funding to tackle these blighted properties.

The Ohio Land Bank Association, and the 59 county land banks across the state, are prepared and ready to utilize these funds to bring these blighted properties into economically productive sites.

On behalf of the Ohio Land Bank Association, we support the passage of Senate Bill 84.