

Opponent Testimony by Kimberly Studmire on Senate Bill 158  
Government Oversight Committee  
October 10th, 2023

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to present opponent testimony on SB 158. My name is Kimberly Studmire and I am writing to oppose the passage of Senate Bill 158.

Cleveland voters deserve their right to vote on Issue 38 in November. Just like Clevelanders, voters in every municipality in Ohio deserve the opportunity to vote on local, citizen-led ballot initiatives. SB 158 infringes on that right.

I am writing to express my strong support for Issue 38, which I believe will bring significant benefits to the city of Cleveland. As a resident and active member of this vibrant community, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that this issue can have on our city's growth, development, and overall well-being.

First and foremost, Issue 38 aims to invest in critical infrastructure projects that are long overdue in Cleveland. Our roads, bridges, and public transportation systems are in dire need of repair and modernization. By allocating funds towards these infrastructure improvements, Issue 38 will not only enhance the safety and efficiency of our transportation networks but also attract new businesses, create jobs, and stimulate economic growth.

Furthermore, Issue 38 includes provisions to support the expansion of affordable housing options in Cleveland. As our city continues to grow, it is crucial that we prioritize the availability of affordable housing for all residents. This issue recognizes the importance of ensuring that individuals and families of all income levels have access to safe, decent, and affordable housing, thereby promoting social equity and inclusivity within our community.

In addition to infrastructure and housing, Issue 38 also addresses environmental concerns that are of utmost importance to Cleveland's future. By investing in renewable energy sources and sustainable practices, this issue demonstrates our commitment to combating climate change and reducing our carbon footprint. These initiatives will not only protect our environment but also position Cleveland as a leader in clean energy innovation, attracting green businesses and creating a more sustainable future for generations to come.

Moreover, Issue 38 recognizes the significance of investing in education and workforce development. By allocating funds towards improving our schools, expanding vocational training programs, and supporting higher education institutions, this issue ensures that our residents have access to quality education and the necessary skills to thrive in a rapidly evolving job market. This investment in human capital will not only benefit individuals but also contribute to the overall economic prosperity of our city.

In conclusion, Issue 38 presents a unique opportunity for the city of Cleveland to address critical needs, promote economic growth, foster social equity, protect our environment, and invest in our future. I urge you, as esteemed members of the House of Representatives, to support this issue and work towards its successful implementation. By doing so, we can ensure that Cleveland remains a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable city for all its residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I trust that you will consider the significant benefits that Issue 38 can bring to our beloved city.

Thank you,  
Kimberly Studmire