

September 23, 2016

The Honorable State Senator Bob Peterson
Co-Chair, 2020 Tax Policy Study Commission
1 Capital Square, Ground Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

The Honorable State Representative Tim Schaffer
Co-Chair, 2020 Tax Policy Study Commission
77 S. High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Peterson and Chairman Schaffer:

As the 2020 Tax Policy Study Commission considers ways to maximize Ohio's competitiveness, we wish to express our thoughts on how state tax policy should work to strengthen the economic development capacity of cities and metropolitan regions.


As you may know, 80 percent of the state's GDP is created in our seven largest metropolitan regions. As leaders in the communities within these regions, we are on the front lines of economic development, and as such, have first-hand knowledge of what makes Ohio competitive.

Our experience tells us that competitiveness in attracting new investment to our regions comes from a wide array of factors. Most successful economic development efforts are predicated on having a skilled workforce, access to transportation hubs, and a high quality of life for those starting businesses and their employees. These are the basic building blocks for communities like ours to attract and retain jobs.


Cities are engines for economic growth. However, our ability to serve in this capacity is constrained when state revenue sharing programs are curtailed and municipal tax policy changes result in significant financial impacts on cities. Taking further actions that create more financial hardships for cities will weaken our economic development efforts and undermine our ability to create safe neighborhoods, healthy infrastructure, and a strong workforce.

Thank you for considering our input as you develop your recommendations. We appreciate the opportunity to comment and we hope to work together in our shared goals of creating jobs and fostering broad-based economic growth for Ohio.

Respectfully submitted,


David J. Berger, Mayor
City of Lima

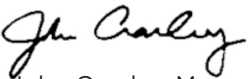

Paula Hicks-Hudson, Mayor
City of Toledo

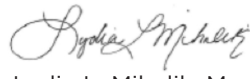

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City of Kettering


Warren R. Copeland, Mayor
City of Springfield



Daniel Horrigan, Mayor
City of Akron



Gregory S. Peterson, Mayor
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John Cranley, Mayor
City of Cincinnati

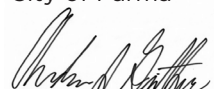

Lydia L. Mihalik, Mayor
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