



Ohio Municipal League

Our Cities and Villages ★ Bringing Ohio to Life

Date: May 20, 2008

To: Members, House Finance and Appropriations Committee

From: Susan J. Cave, Executive Director and
John K. Mahoney, Deputy Director

Subject: HB 554 and HJR 5

The League is very appreciative of the fine, bipartisan work on the economic stimulus package (HB 554 and HJR 5) that occurred among the leadership of the General Assembly and the administration. In our endorsement of the Governor's economic stimulus package, our Board of Trustees stated their sincere hope that the final product of that initiative would be a bipartisan package accomplished through frank and honest discussions with the leadership of both Houses. The leadership of the House and the Senate, as well as the Governor, should be very proud that such an accommodation could be reached.

With this strong first step in place, we would like to offer the League's very strong endorsement for the stimulus package that is before your committee. We believe that HB 554 offers Ohioans a proposal that will stimulate our economy through the quick creation of many good paying jobs. The infrastructure portion of the proposal, in which we are most directly interested, will give our state an infusion of \$600 million in state assistance for road, bridge, sewer and water projects between July, 2008 and July, 2009. This combination of new dollars and the much-appreciated regular allocations of Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) funds will not only create new jobs directly, but also additional jobs that stem from an improved infrastructure. Additionally, this influx of new economic stimulus will be implemented through a system of decision-making and grant-making that, we believe, is one of the most efficient and effective state-local partnerships in the nation.

We believe that if the stimulus package is passed, relying on a decision-making process that has served Ohio extremely well for twenty years, the goal of stimulating the economy quickly will be well served.

We strongly urge you to support HB 554.

We, also, are very supportive of expanding the Clean Ohio program embodied in HJR 5. The League was one of the earliest supporters of the Clean Ohio program and the program has been a great success. The program's uncommon recognition of the need for both "green field" and "brown field" kinds of programs has made Clean Ohio a real boon for small villages and big cities alike. The General Assembly's strong support for the Clean Ohio program and its initiative in creating the OPWC program should be appreciated by all Ohioans.

We certainly hope you will pass the entire stimulus package embodied in HB 554 and give us the chance to campaign for the expansion of the Clean Ohio program that is embodied in HJR 5.

