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SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 83 -- PROPONENT TESTIMONY

March 23, 2021

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Senior Policy Analyst

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Huffman, and Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share the views of CCAO on Senate Bill 83, sponsored by Senators Williams and Rulli. CCAO strongly supports this legislation because it would reestablish state leadership on the issue of brownfield cleanup. Specifically, the bill directs the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, in conjunction with Ohio universities, to undertake the following tasks:

1. Identify brownfield sites in Ohio and determine how many require cleanup;
2. Estimate the cost of performing the cleanup of the identified brownfield sites;
3. Identify funding sources to support the cleanup of identified brownfield sites;
4. Develop recommendations for changes to state and local laws and policies that would help facilitate the cleanup of the identified brownfield sites;
5. Study and develop recommendations regarding any other issue relevant to the cleanup of brownfield sites in Ohio.

Economic development and neighborhood revitalization efforts continue to be hindered by the existence of numerous contaminated brownfield sites across the state of Ohio. In some cases, these sites are known to local economic development organizations, but the state does not have a comprehensive inventory of these sites or an estimate of what it might cost to clean them up. The bill will help to refocus state and local policymakers, and the private sector, on the challenges of brownfield cleanup and the economic development opportunities that can result from successful revitalization.

We respectfully ask the committee to favorably report Senate Bill 83. Please contact CCAO with any questions.



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