



GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

James W. Dvorak Timothy C. Lennon Ralph Spidalieri

470 Center Street, Building 4 • 12611 Ravenwood Drive, Suite 350 • Chardon, Ohio 44024

Date: June 11, 2024

Steve Demetriou, Sarah Fowler, Sandra O' Brien, Vernon Skyes

Re: Proposed Legislation to eliminate local zoning

Dear,

At the present time there seems to be a push by some members of the general assembly to eliminate local zoning, the Geauga County Board of Commissioners believes that this is a misguided idea. We the Geauga County Commissioners write to you today to express our unequivocal support for retaining local control of zoning within the state of Ohio.

In 1947, local zoning was enacted by the Ohio General Assembly through ORC 519. Since that time, local zoning tailored to local requirements by locally elected and appointed citizens has been the gold standard for property protection and orderly development in Ohio. No one knows the needs of a local area better than the people who live there.

We understand that there are elements in the state who would like to take away local control of zoning to short circuit the ability of local citizens to control the destiny of local development. We as a Board feel this is detrimental and we heartily disagree with any action by our state legislature to, in any way or manner, strip any zoning authority from local governments.

Centralized control by the government in Columbus with a one-size-fits-all approach never works! Additionally, we believe centralized zoning decision-making at the state level is an overreach and infringement of the power of local residents to ensure appropriate development, attention to community needs, and economic growth uniquely tailored to the characteristics, values, and demands of their individual community. Thomas Jefferson once said, **“The government closest to the people serves the people best”** In this instance, we agree. Zoning decisions should be made by the people most affected by them.

To our understanding the main issues causing this push are occurring in and around Franklin County and are not being experienced by other areas of the State, as such any solution if implemented by the state legislature should be limited to the central Ohio area.

If you have any questions or need clarification, please let me know.

Respectfully,
Gauga County Commissioners

Ralph Spidalieri, President James W. Dvorak, Vice President Timothy C. Lennon, member