



June 24, 2008

Mayor William A. Currin, Chair
Northeast Ohio Mayors & City Managers Association
10107 Brecksville Road
Brecksville, OH 44141

Dear Mayors and City Managers:

The members of the Akron Section of the Ohio Planning Conference unanimously adopted the attached position statement expressing support and commendation of the Regional Revenue Study. The Ohio Planning Conference is an organization of citizen and professional planners who comprise the Ohio state chapter of the American Planning Association. The Akron Section is made up of state chapter members from Summit, Medina, Portage and Stark counties.

As we see it, the call to action by findings of the Phase I Study demands the attention of citizens, elected and appointed community leaders, and business leaders. We believe the call is both important and urgent. Thank you for your dedicated effort to shape this study so thoughtfully.

As an organization of community planners we ask to be a part of Phase II of the Study to help chart out effective solutions, particularly, collaborative land use planning. We will not wait to promote the importance of this Study and its findings, and we respectfully ask how else may we help?

On behalf of our membership,

Thomas E. King, Akron Section Director
Ohio Planning Conference

c/o Community Development Dept.
46 Ravenna Street, D3
Hudson, Ohio 44236



WE SUPPORT THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC REVENUE STUDY

The Akron Section of the Ohio Planning Conference (a state Chapter of the American Planning Association) supports the “Regional Economic Revenue Study”, a project of the Northeast Ohio Mayors and City Managers Association. We support this Study because the current practice of competition between local governments for tax revenues reduces northeast Ohio’s ability to compete in the global economy. A cooperative, regional approach to business growth and development, government efficiency, regional land use planning, infrastructure prioritization, and improved equity in distribution of fiscal resources is vital to the future of our collective communities. We as the community planners of cities, counties, and townships of Summit, Medina, Portage, and Stark Counties envision the following gains from such cooperation and commitment:

- Strategic economic investments and incentives that position our region to compete globally.
- Curtailment of the waste of already limited local government resources that is happening now by localities who are competing for tax revenues.
- Job and economic growth from shared goals and regional strengths.
- Preserving open space in our communities.
- Use of existing infrastructure rather than costly duplication or extension.
- Accommodating and spurring market demand for existing community centers.
- Encouraging lifestyles and the use of land that reduce climate change.

We urge our business communities and local governments to walk a path to fulfill the potential of this regional vision through dialogue, trial programs, and bold commitments.

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