October 15, 2015

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brown,

I have served as the Franklin County Treasurer since 2007 and over that time have focused on making sure the taxpayer's resources were used soundly, efficiently and effectively. Recently the County Treasurers Association of Ohio has expressed its concerns with proposed Securities and Exchanges Commission ("SEC") Rule changes impacting Money Market Funds ("MMFs"). As the 2nd Vice President for the Association as well as a County Treasurer, I believe the proposed changes adopted in 2014 could have a negative impact upon the viability of MMFs and in turn, the investment and borrowing options of local governments in Ohio.

Through very strong fiscal leadership and management, Franklin County maintains a AAA bond rating. Not passing S. 1802 would cause a disruption with MMFs that purchase a significant amount of government issued tax exempt bonds. This disruption could lead to higher interest rates for many Ohio counties, thereby making needed infrastructure projects more expensive over the life of the bonds. My concerns are three fold; there will be increased borrowing costs for county governments, County Treasurer's would lose MMFs as a cash management tool, and permissible investment vehicles for Ohio counties would be further diminished.

I understand that S. 1802 will be heard in the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, and would appreciate it if you would give this legislation serious consideration for passage. S. 1802 would correct the SEC's rule change on MMFs that imposed a transition from a fixed net asset value to a floating net asset value.

Thank you for your time and I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Edward Leonard
Franklin County Treasurer