



Ohio Council of Port Authorities  
339 Oxford Street, Dover, Ohio 44622  
330-602-4422; 602 or 330-204-5210

November 10, 2015

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

***Re: Support the Consumer Financial Choice and Capital Markets Protection Act of 2015 (S.1802)***

Dear Senator Brown:

On behalf of the fifty-five (55) port authorities located throughout the state of Ohio, and the citizens who benefit from the economic stimulus generated by Members of the **Ohio Council of Port Authorities**, we respectfully urge you to support Senate Bill 1802, which has been assigned to the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee. This legislation enables us to continue to be an effective conduit to issue tax-exempt debt benefitting local Companies considering capital projects to expand their businesses in our communities. We need to continue enabling cost efficient funding for needed economic development. A growing economy fosters new job growth and an expanded tax base, enabling local governments to provide necessary services for their citizens.

A significant number of construction projects are financed with tax-exempt bonds. Money Market Funds (MMFs) are significant purchasers of tax-exempt obligations. A decrease in tax-exempt financing options, compounded by increased interest rates for construction projects, could lead to a reduction in future projects. Without MMFs to purchase our bonds, the cost of those projects will be incrementally more expensive, limiting future growth. The lowest possible interest costs for tax-exempt financing is an especially important tool for stimulating local growth. Local communities and industry (through local Port Authorities) use tax-exempt debt to finance various capital and public works projects.

Without the passage of Senate Bill 1802, prime MMFs will discontinue purchasing such debt after October 2016 when the fund's underlying net asset value moves from a fixed sum to a floating value. We are very concerned that Port Authorities will lose a significant purchaser of local tax-exempt debt if S-1802 does not pass, and MMFs are no longer permitted to retain a fixed net asset value.

We thank you in advance for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions regarding the positive impact Senate Bill 1802 will have upon the economic vitality of the Ohio Council of Port Authorities.

Very truly yours,

Harry A. Eadon Jr., Chairman OCPA