



March 9, 2016

The Honorable Tim Ryan
United States House of Representatives
1421 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the Consumer Financial Choice and Capital Markets Protection Act (H.R.4216)

Dear Congressman Ryan:

I am writing to ask for your leadership to advance a bipartisan bill (H.R. 4216) that fixes a regulation whose economic consequences to Ohio may outweigh any potential transparency benefit. The Development Finance Authority of Summit County is part of a coalition of over one hundred (100) organizations and entities representing Ohioans, who for many years, have relied upon fixed net asset value money market funds to help finance Ohio's infrastructure and other public needs.

The Development Finance Authority of Summit County funded over \$14.2M in new public works Projects using tax-exempt bonds in 2015. Without Money Market Funds to purchase our bonds, the cost of those Projects would be incrementally more expensive, possibly limiting future growth. Local governments and industry (through local Port Authorities) use short-term debt to finance various capital and public works projects. Money Market Funds are significant purchasers of tax-exempt obligations. Without House Bill 4216, Money Market Funds may no longer purchase such debt after October 2016 when the fund's underlying net asset value moves from a fixed sum to a floating value.

One of the benefits of H.R.4216 is that it will result in continuing our ability to benefit from highly-liquid, short-term capital for investment needs. Recent news media accounts have described large banks limiting their support for public infrastructure investment. The public debt market needs an alternative.

Ohio's port authorities and other public entities need access to robust capital markets to finance economic development and other projects that create or retain jobs in our state. This includes the construction and maintenance of facilities for education, culture, recreation, health care, infrastructure, private non-profit, and governmental operations. Ohio port authorities have the following impact on Ohio:

- Port authorities reported a \$6.5 billion annual economic impact on Ohio's economy. This impact represents a significant part of Ohio's \$441 billion GDP for 2006 (most recent year analyzed).
- Capital investments facilitated by Ohio port authorities directly support over 20,000 jobs with a \$694 million annual payroll. Those projects initiated \$413 million in new capital investment.
- Port authorities spark capital investment. Ohio port authorities financed 2.4 billion in projects in Ohio in the last ten years with a majority of port authorities involved in deal financing.
- Many port authorities are self-sufficient revenue producers. Port authorities reported \$178 million in revenue for 2006 with a better than 2:1 ratio for non-tax vs. tax revenue sources.
- Port authorities own some unusual economic generators. One owns a 260-mile fiber optic network. Another owns a former Air Force Base, including underground labs. There are parking garages, a theater, education facilities, waterfront property, rail lines, industrial parks, intermodal facilities, airports, and brownfield redevelopment sites among port authority-held assets in Ohio.

We are very concerned that Port Authorities will lose a significant purchaser of local tax-exempt debt if money market funds liquidate their holdings and dissolve as a result of the new SEC rule requiring a floating net asset value.

We thank you again for your support on this issue. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions regarding the positive impact House Bill 4216 will have upon the economic vitality of Summit County and the surrounding communities.

Sincerely,



Chris Burnham
President