



Office of the Lawrence County Commissioners

**Dr. Colton Copley** \*  
President

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Member

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(P) 740.533.4300 (F) 740.533.4370

March 9, 2023

Honorable Brad Wenstrup, Congressman  
2335 Rayburn H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515


Dear Congressman Wenstrup,

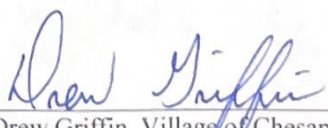
Lawrence County, Ohio and the Village of Chesapeake, Ohio are in support of the Lawrence County Port Authority's (LCPA) application for the Congressional Community Development Fund-Economic Development Initiative (EDI) through your Office for use within the Village of Chesapeake. This project represents a critical investment into the Chesapeake Community that will provide the lower income and disadvantaged residents of that community to have safe passage via safe walking and bicycling trails that inter-connects the residential neighborhood to key employment, health care, and essential services within and nearby those residents.

In the past, Lawrence County has invested its limited HUD funding allocations through the State of Ohio to help build and rebuild in multiple phases portions of the Village's sidewalk system. However, since Lawrence County is not a HUD Entitlement Community, funding is very limited as to what it can invest in this greatly needed project. Because the LCPA along with other supportive local development organizations are targeting the development of affordable housing and commercial re-development within the Village of Chesapeake, this major one-time investment as proposed with these EDI funds would allow the completion of a remaining critical link of that safe routes system, therefore completing connections of residents in the Village to proposed affordable housing, a critical affordable health care facility, as well as key services and employment centers.

Your consideration of this critically needed project as a priority for congressional consideration is greatly appreciated. Please consider this letter as a pledge of both Lawrence County and the Village of Chesapeake to leverage this support if available to greatly enhance the quality of life in Chesapeake.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Colton Copley, Commission President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Drew Griffin, Village of Chesapeake Mayor



**GREATER  
LAWRENCE COUNTY  
AREA**

**LAWRENCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.**

P.O. Box 488  
South Point, Ohio 45680-0488  
740-377-4550 800-408-1334  
FAX 740-377-2091

March 9, 2023

Honorable Brad Wenstrup, Congressman

2335 Rayburn H.O.B.

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup,

The Lawrence Economic Development Corporation, LEDC, forwards this letter asking you to join them in encouraging the Chesapeake Ohio riverfront project support through the Congressional budget. The Ohio River offers unbelievable opportunities for development. We already have a restaurant owner that previously ran a seven restaurant seafood chain in Naples Florida that now owns and operates three large restaurants in the Tri-State committed to constructing a restaurant along this planned leisure trail when it is completed and the accompanying engineering is finished.

Without question, this one project will provide systemic positive change to the Chesapeake community while enhancing the opportunities for all residents by tying all sections together including the many lower income sections. This one project will offer millions of dollars of investments and a huge number of hospitality jobs that will be within walking distance.

The LEDC will provide the oversight and nurturing to enhance both the economy and the quality of life of Chesapeake and the surrounding region. We ask that you and your leadership team join us in this vision of the future and invest in this so very an important Ohio River project.

Sincerely,

Bill W. Dingus, PhD

Executive Director



**IRONTON-LAWRENCE COUNTY AREA  
COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION, INC.**

March 9, 2023

Honorable Brad Wenstrup, Congressman  
2335 Rayburn H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup,

The Ironton Lawrence County Community Action Organization (ILCAO) would like to express its support to the Lawrence County Port Authority's (LCPA) with their application for the Congressional Community Development Fund-Economic Development Initiative (EDI) to develop a safe 1<sup>st</sup> Street/Riverfront trail/pedestrian way within the Village of Chesapeake.

This project is greatly needed to provide safe pedestrian passage opportunities within and between neighborhoods of that small village neighborhoods. ILCAO currently has and will soon expanding its health services at its Chesapeake Family Medical Center (FQHC) in the village. This project would help assure access to this center for the many Village residents, many being lower income and elderly which often do not have access to vehicles and is reliant on being able to walk to critical services. This project would also support our Agencies efforts to increase the number and availability of affordable housing within the Village.

Your consideration of this critically needed project as a priority for congressional consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. R. H. Smith".

**305 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Ironton, Ohio 45638**  
**(740) 532-3534**  
**<http://www.ilcao.org>**