TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Congressman Greg Landsman (OH-01) March 30, 2023

Member Day

Thank you, Chairman Cole, Ranking Member Quigley, and Members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development for the opportunity to provide Member testimony regarding Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations.

As a former Member of the Cincinnati City Council, and someone who has helped build coalitions in Southwest Ohio to invest in and strengthen transportation system, housing, and economic development – I know first-hand the vital ways in which the work of this Subcommittee impacts local communities every single day.

As a Member of Congress and a neighbor to folks back home, I am dedicated to improving the lives of children and families — not only in our region but also across the country.

A key aspect of that dedication is ensuring folks can get where they need to go through reliable and affordable transportation options. It means guaranteeing housing options across the spectrum of affordability – from low- and middle-income, to market rate. And, it means forging federal partnerships through incredibly effective measures like the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Whether in urban, suburban, or rural America – this Subcommittee touches each and every American. And what I respectfully ask of each of you today is to invest in the essential work of transportation, housing, and economic development. This is how we will move regions like Southwest Ohio forward.

During the height of the pandemic, the voters of Cincinnati and Hamilton County approved a bold plan to improve our regional transit system. We brought together Republicans and Democrats, business and labor, and folks from all walks of life — to figure out how to better connect children, families, workers, and seniors to places they need to go, reliably and affordably.

This plan was significantly bolstered through key federal funding and support that has assisted Southwest Ohio in thinking big and thinking boldly about how we plan our communities, and how we meet people where they are and better their lives. Everyone needs to get to the grocery store, the doctor's office, to school and to work – and we need to make sure we have the robust system in place to make that happen.

We also need to ensure that folks have a place to live – quality, affordable housing so that children can grow up safely, families have a roof over their head, and seniors can live with dignity in their golden years.

No city, town, or village can do this on their own. It requires local, state, and federal partners to work collaboratively – and federal investments in housing are critical to that effort.

Finally, as we think about how to create new good-paying jobs and economic opportunity for all Americans, we must acknowledge the sizeable role of the federal government in unlocking the full potential of communities, big and small. In Ohio's First Congressional District, we have big cities and we have small rural communities. Each has their own strengths, and each has areas in which federal support is invaluable.

I ask this Subcommittee to utilize the levers and deploy the resources at its disposal to help support communities like those I represent in Southwest Ohio in every way that you can.

Together, this Subcommittee can and should play an enormous role in moving our nation forward.

Thank you Chairman Cole, Ranking Member Quigley, and Committee Members for the opportunity to testify here today. I appreciate the important work each of you is undertaking for the people we all serve.