

Representative Emilia Strong Sykes
Assistant Minority Whip

December 12, 2017

Mike DeWine, Attorney General of Ohio
State Office Tower 30 E. Broad Street, 17th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Attorney General DeWine:

I write to urge you not to appeal the decision in *City of Cleveland v. State of Ohio*, which found that the State does not have the constitutional authority to enact House Bill (HB) 180 to block local hiring ordinances. Allowing Ohio communities to retain authority over local hiring practices strengthens our regional workforces, puts money into the pockets of Ohio workers and boosts our economy.

Local hiring standards represent a commitment by cities to combat underemployment and reinvest in local communities. Workers benefit from public construction projects that often include jobs with apprenticeships – clear career paths and quality on-the-job training that pay dividends beyond the duration of a single project.

Ohioans deserve a fair shot at good-paying local jobs because they have a stake in rebuilding the communities where they live and raise their families. By putting money back in the hands of Ohio workers, local hiring ordinances like Cleveland’s Fannie Lewis Law are strengthening local businesses and giving workers the opportunity to get ahead. Without local hiring ordinances, investments would be more likely to flow to out of state companies and workers with no stake in the health and success of our regional economies.

It is in Ohio’s best interest to let the *City of Cleveland v. State of Ohio* decision stand. Handcuffing local decision-making and home rule, a tenet central to the Ohio Constitution, only serves to hurt hardworking Ohioans, especially in communities of color like my hometown, Akron.

Please feel free to contact my office with any questions or concerns at 614-466-3100 or rep34@ohiohouse.gov.

Sincerely,



Emilia S. Sykes
State Representative

Committees:

Finance Committee
Finance Subcommittee on Health & Human Services
Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee
Rules & Reference
Health
Ways & Means

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