Sample Letter

(Date)

John R. Kasich

Governor, State of Ohio

Riffe Center, 30th Floor

77 South High Street

Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Dear Governor Kasich,

I’m writing today to urge you to invest this year’s projected budget surplus in Ohio’s municipalities. You recently proposed using the projected surplus of $147 million to fund an income tax withholding reduction and an additional $68 million to max out the state’s rainy day fund. This revenue would be more useful if it was returned to local governments.

In recent years, your administration and the Ohio General Assembly have repeatedly decreased funding and revenue sharing. You have significantly decreased the Local Government Fund (LGF), eliminated the Estate Tax, and phased out the Tangible Personal Property Tax. In CY 2015 alone, LGF raids cost municipalities a total of $435 million. These cuts have made it more difficult for municipalities to provide basic services, rebuild infrastructure, and bolster public safety services to fight the opioid epidemic.

Our community has suffered from this revenue loss, and I want to encourage you to prioritize investing in municipalities. When cities and villages experience success in creating safe communities, building sound infrastructure, and increasing economic development, the State of Ohio also reaps the benefits. We are partners in ensuring that Ohioans have strong communities and futures.

I strongly urge you support distributing the budget surplus revenue to cities and villages.

Respectfully,

(Your Name and Title)

CC: Paul Zeltwanger, State Representative

Steve Wilson, State Senator