

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 31, 2018

Tim Thomas  
Federal Co-Chair  
Appalachian Regional Commission  
1666 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20009-1068

Dear Mr. Thomas,

I write to bring to your attention the competitive grant application submitted by the Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio for funding in the POWER Initiative for a follow-on POWER Grant. I understand Ohio University seeks federal funding for its Social Enterprise Ecosystem (SEE) program.

SEE helps enterprises and investors achieve greater impacts, attract and allocate resources, and increase contributions to building and growing Appalachian communities. The program addresses three areas of need: a lack of customized venture development services, a lack of appropriate tools for social impact measurement, and capital access planning and acquisition pathways specific to social enterprises. It is vital to address these issues in order to accelerate economic growth in the region.

Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please contact my grants coordinator, Jason Knox, at 614-469-6774. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman  
United States Senator