March 26, 2021

Mr. Tim Thomas  
Federal Co-Chair  
Appalachian Regional Commission  
1666 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Thomas,

I write to bring your attention to the competitive application submitted by the Village of Ripley, Ohio to the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) 2021 grant program.

I understand that the Village of Ripley seeks funding for their Ripley Freedom Landing Project. This project would replace a damaged launch ramp and build a 200-300 foot bi-level landing that would accommodate weekend boaters and future passenger liners. The Ohio River is a largely untapped mode of transportation and could bring visitors by large boat or cruise line to dock for the day or overnight. Travelers would enjoy several amenities in the village as well as the area’s rich Underground Railroad history. The new tourism in the area would benefit existing businesses and encourage new business opportunities to locate in Ripley.

Assistance from your agency would allow the Village of Ripley to move forward with their public landing project in hopes of fulfilling the strategic plan for the area.

Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please contact my Grants Coordinator, Kristy Ramey, at (614) 469-6774. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rob Portman  
United States Senator