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January 31st, 2020

Sunset Review Committee

Re: Testimony on the Ridges Advisory Committee
Associate Vice President for University Planning, Shawna Bolin

Members of the Sunset Review Committee, my name is Shawna Bolin. I am the Associate Vice President for University Planning at Ohio University. Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on behalf of the Ridges Advisory Committee. Ohio University is respectfully asking for re-authorization of the Ridges Advisory Committee.

The Ridges property, formerly the Athens Lunatic Asylum, was conveyed to Ohio University by the State in 1988. The 117th General Assembly in House Bill 576 outlined designating an advisory committee to advise the Board of Trustees on land uses to be made by Ohio University. This committee provided recommendations on the 1998 Ridges Land Use Study that Ohio University developed.

In March of 2013, several local government officials reviewed the need to update the 1988 statutory make-up of the committee in keeping with current university practice. With the support of local government officials, we worked to revise the legislative language as it relates to the committee and its reporting structure. This revised statute was passed by the 130th Ohio General Assembly in House Bill 59.

The Ridges Advisory Committee provided valuable review and feedback to the University during a planning process that updated our Ridges property land use plan, *The Ridges Framework Plan*. The committee is comprised of members of the city and county government as well as members of the community who have special knowledge or experience in land use planning, preservation, and economic development.

As the Framework plan has been adopted and approved, the Ridges Advisory Committee provides review and feedback as the University moves projects forward for implementation. We respectfully ask for The Ridges Advisory Committee to continue to support our inclusive and collaborative processes.

Respectfully,

Shawna A. Bolin
Associate Vice President for University Planning
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