

Mr. Mark Charles  
Sustainability Manager  
City of Dayton  
101 West Third Street  
Dayton, OH 45402

July 9, 2020

Dear Mr. Charles,

As the largest regional business advocate in the greater Dayton region, the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce represents nearly 2,200 businesses and organizations in southwestern Ohio in a nine county region. Over 500 of our members are located within the City of Dayton. On behalf of these members, the Chamber would like thank you for the opportunity to review a draft of the **Strategy for a Sustainable Dayton**. Energy and environmental sustainability has been a key part of our organization's legislative and regulatory agenda for the past decade, and is one of the primary reasons why we created the Dayton Regional Green Business Certification program. Today, this program boasts several hundred local businesses and organizations that have taken actionable and significant steps in becoming more green and sustainable.

The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce applauds the City of Dayton's leadership in addressing the issue of sustainability for our community. As outlined in the newly proposed plan, while there are strategies that are "primarily directed at the City's own behaviors and activities, we intend to promote and encourage similar actions by neighboring jurisdictions and the area business community". It is the Chamber's hope that we can be an advocate for the businesses that you hope to influence, and work to bring them to the table as partners to enact realistic and meaningful change.

As outlined in the **Strategy for a Sustainable Dayton**, I would like to highlight several items that the Chamber strongly supports that directly impact our business community:

- A commitment to local vendors and businesses for both economic and sustainability reasons.
- Incentivizing building owners in the City of Dayton to take advantage of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) funding, to retrofit their structures with energy efficient features.
- A "complete streets" transportation plan that accommodates myriad transportation systems and improves accessibility for all users.

However, there are a few points in the **Strategy for a Sustainable Dayton** that may be unintentionally harmful to the business community and the sustainability partnerships that we've worked to establish.

- While we acknowledge the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 (% renewable energy) by 2035 is aspirational, we also know the challenges of the complex economic situation in which we find ourselves. Investments in renewable energy technologies are important, however, we urge our local, state and federal government

partners to work with our business community and utility partners to identify strategies that are reliable, cost effective and don't adversely impact economic investment in our region.

- We believe that the City Commission adopt a ban on fracking activity inside the Dayton City limits is more political than it is pragmatic. As this practice is not currently taking place inside the city, and will likely not take place due to our geological setting, we support keeping the report focused on real impacts for our community.
- Finally, recycling is and should be an important part of any sustainability strategy, however, "establishing a mandatory recycling rate for commercial entities in the City ( e.g at least 50% of the waste stream)" does not take into account some very significant challenges our businesses, particularly our small businesses , face in this area. Working with both our owner occupied as well as our tenant spaces will be key to ensuring a successful recycling strategy that incentivizes participation rather than punishes non-compliance.

Ultimately, many of the programs and initiatives outlined in the **Strategy for a Sustainable Dayton** will require ongoing partnership between the business community and the City of Dayton. As we worked together several years ago to update the Source Water Protection Program (SWPP), we look forward to working together on this next stage of sustainable planning and implementation.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to review this plan and provide feedback on behalf of the business community.

Sincerely,

*Stephanie Keinath*

Stephanie Keinath  
Director, Public Policy & Economic Development  
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce