

2020 Legislative Priority

Issue:

Land-Use Planning and Rural Revitalization

Background:

Many rural areas and small towns in Indiana have continued to see a decline in economic opportunity and a loss of population. Those realities decrease local government revenues, which directly impact governmental services and economic growth of a rural area. Over time, the impacts are felt through an aging population, and limit small businesses' ability to support rural communities.

There is a need to create additional programs that support economic development and delivery of critical government services, while protecting farms using land-use planning tools.

Talking Points:

- Programs such as those that are designed to encourage the protection of agricultural land will help maintain the viability of farms in Indiana while promoting rural economic growth.
- Rapid investment in local infrastructure is needed to repair roads and bridges. Investments will also help deploy telecommunications equipment, which is critical to rural and small town economies.
- Programs must support the opportunity for communities to work together to maximize returns and develop significant projects that provide economic growth
- Priority must be given to projects that are based on long-term visions and not simply to address immediate shortfalls

Key Message/Ask

- The General Assembly should consider a balance between the incentives for economic growth and the viability of farms in areas where agriculture is the foundation of the local economy.
- Consider how will create local opportunities and provide support to local elected officials and businesses that need to grow
- Highlight how the state's continued investments in infrastructure will help foster economic development opportunities in rural communities.