

A Nice Place to Call Home
BOARDMAN TOWNSHIP

TRUSTEES: Matthew Gambrel · Larry Moliterno · Steve Yacovone

April 28, 2026

Dear Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Tressel:

We are writing in support of Boardman Township's Cranberry Run Flood Mitigation Project, a critical public safety initiative that addresses long-standing and severe flooding conditions affecting both residential neighborhoods and major commercial corridors in central Boardman.

For decades, unplanned development across this watershed—particularly the construction of homes and businesses without any stormwater detention—has contributed to chronic and worsening flooding. Today, this area experiences significant infrastructure strain, property damage, commercial disruption, and serious risks to public safety. Flooding along U.S. Route 224 alone affects more than local neighborhoods: it impacts thousands of commuters, businesses, and transit operations, as **over 35,000 vehicles travel this corridor daily**, and the Western Reserve Transit Authority must reroute buses during major events. Residentially, **more than 3,500 people** living downstream stand to benefit from the protection and resiliency this project will provide.

The Mahoning Valley is currently defining a new chapter of economic resilience, transitioning from a storied industrial past to a diversified, modern economy. However, this "bounce back" remains vulnerable to the increasing frequency of severe weather events. We, as local leaders in the Mahoning Valley and Boardman Township, believe assistance from the State of Ohio for this incredible project will further propel the progress made in our celebrated region while providing stormwater relief to thousands of residents.

The Cranberry Run Flood Mitigation Project is a comprehensive, science-based solution that includes new conveyance infrastructure, stream restoration, detention facilities, bioswale installations, culvert replacements, and the rerouting of approximately **99 acres of upstream drainage** away from long-flooded neighborhoods. These improvements will increase regional stormwater capacity, reduce hydraulic grade lines, and protect more than 250 parcels during extreme weather events.

We would also like to highlight the historic significance of the funding secured for this effort. **For the first time, Boardman Township has received Federal Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) funding**, with a remarkable **\$35.4 million FEMA award** supporting this transformative project. This federal investment underscores the urgency and importance of the work being undertaken, as well as the need for the remaining state match to ensure successful implementation.

The benefits of this project extend far beyond a single location—it **protects a large, interconnected area of both commercial and residential development**, safeguarding homes, businesses, transportation networks, and public services. The project represents a rare opportunity to correct decades of stormwater challenges and build a resilient, modern drainage system that will serve Boardman Township and the surrounding region for generations.

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Fiscal Officer: Brad Calhoun

We respectfully request the State of Ohio's support for this vital project. State partnership will be instrumental in helping bring this transformative initiative to fruition and ensuring the safety and stability of the community for years to come.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this project, and for your continued leadership on issues of public safety, infrastructure resilience, and community well-being throughout the State of Ohio. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (614) 466-8285 or by e-mail at Cutrona@ohiosenate.gov.

Sincerely,

Al Cutrona
State Senator
33rd Senate District



Tex Fischer
State Representative
59th House District



Steve Yacovone
Trustee



Matt Gambrel
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