**Graig Kluge**

**Cleveland, oh**

I regret that I did not pay enough attention to the meeting dates here in NE Ohio because I would have enjoyed attending such a session. I agree wholeheartedly about the consensus of what constitutes a vibrant community and some of the community assets here in NE Ohio and across this State. I commend your organization's efforts to start a grassroots campaign to change the trajectory of this State.

One issue that was not in your article was how local and state government can help lay the groundwork for a growing, thriving community. If you look at what the State legislature and executive have done to completely set this State back, it is shocking. For decades the State legislature has been much more concerned with cultural issues than really doing what is necessary to move this State into the 21st century. I can carry a gun into a day care or pretty much anywhere else in this State thanks to the legislature, but they do very little to push a 21st agenda focusing on health care (Kasich had to bootstrap the State into the Medicaid expansion), technology, and a more embracing and immigrant friendly agenda (you and I both know how entrepreneurial immigrants are and how many successful businesses are started by immigrants).

You can do all of this work and Ohio will continue to get older, whiter and less educated thanks to Columbus. People will continue to leave the State, unless we get dynamic leadership in the Governor's mansion and the Statehouse - and the same goes for many local and regional governments. Dynamic and business friendly local and regional government can have a tremendous effect on a region's economic trajectory. Columbus is a prime example. Yes, it has the State govt., but Columbus has always been the State capital, and yet, the city has really grown over the last 15-20 years thanks to more forward thinking, progressive elected leaders. The same goes for other Midwestern cities like Indianapolis and Minneapolis.

I will make sure to keep my eyes open for any future sessions and try to attend. Thank you for all of your work on this project and for the article that was published in the Plain Dealer (and I imagine other papers in the State as well).