



A regional collaboration in
Quality of Life
Quality of Place
Innovation & Entrepreneurship
Talent Development & Attraction

To southeastern Indiana elected leaders,

Our southeastern Indiana businesses, organizations and institutions write this letter to collaborate with your counties, cities and towns in order to secure a share of the \$500 million in funding available through the Indiana Economic Development Corporation's Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative, or READI. We believe this program could be transformative for southeastern Indiana.

The State of Indiana and IEDC's goals for this program are to accelerate economic resilience and growth, as well as make Indiana communities magnets for the talent Hoosier businesses need to thrive. Finding people of all skill levels is an ongoing challenge for a vast majority of employers, from manufacturers and restaurants to schools and tourism attractions. State and local governments and businesses large and small all have a vested interest in enhancing Indiana's reputation as a wonderful place to do business, call home, or visit.

We believe the READI program represents an opportunity to implement a variety of projects, some of which may be fundamental quality of place improvements and others which may be creative initiatives to boost innovation and talent attraction. If well-informed and executed properly, such projects have great potential to spark a new era of population and economic growth across this region.

The businesses, organizations and institutions from across southeastern Indiana signing onto this letter stand ready to partner with our elected officials. The READI program calls for private business, institutions and philanthropic stakeholders to be engaged throughout the process. In the near term, we commit to add to the necessary broad and diverse group of stakeholders which will work with you to develop a regional development plan for long-term growth.

Once our southeastern Indiana region is successful in securing READI state funding, we will join you in implementing the plan in the years ahead. We will do this not just by reinvesting in the region ourselves to satisfy the program's expected 4:1 local public and private sector investment match, but also doing our respective parts to attract new private investment here for the benefit of citizens and local governments.

We urge you to make every reasonable effort to embrace the degree of regional collaboration READI requires. Based on our knowledge of the READI program, it is only with this spirit of regionalism that southeastern Indiana will be able to seize this once in a lifetime funding opportunity.

Win or lose with READI, the improved regional communication, cooperation, coordination, collaboration and competitive thinking can position southeastern Indiana for an even brighter future.

There is much to be gained by working together as one region.

Business/entity name (print)

Signature

Name of person signing on behalf of business (print)

Date

Position/title of person signing on behalf of business (print)

Please sign and return to your local economic development organization, or to ask questions:

Dearborn County – One Dearborn, Mike Perleberg – 513-256-1843 – mperleberg@1dearborn.org

Franklin County – Franklin County Economic Development Commission, John Palmer – 765-338-8201, ipalmerfedcd@gmail.com

Ohio County – Ohio County Economic Development Corporation, Lane Siekman – 812-584-3996, ohiocountyedc@gmail.com

Ripley County – Ripley County Economic Development Corporation, Gary Norman – 812-689-4344, gnorman@ripleycountyedc.com

Switzerland County – Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation, Jon Bond – 812-427-9100, jcbond@switzerlandusa.com