



Advocacy Fundraising Update and Call to Action

Dear Members,

Thank you to everyone who has generously contributed to our advocacy fundraising efforts. Your support has enabled us to secure the services of **Steve Tugend, Partner at Kegler Brown Law Firm** in Columbus, OH. This is a significant step forward in advancing our cause.

Expert Legal Support Engaged

Steve Tugend brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our team. He is well acquainted with the regulatory environment in our region and understands the unique challenges we are currently facing. In addition to his legal expertise, Steve has served as Vice President of Government Relations for the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, further enhancing his ability to advocate on our behalf.

Next Steps: Legal Review of Regulations

Our immediate focus is a thorough legal review of draft #6—the final draft of regulations scheduled for delivery to the Commissioners on February 12, 2026. Steve and his firm will meticulously compare these regulations with existing Ohio laws governing our industry to ensure compliance and protect our interests.

Steve recognizes the serious threat these proposed regulations pose to lodging owners and appreciates the urgency of the situation. His team is fully briefed on the timeline set by the zoning committee, and they understand that time is of the essence.

Your Continued Support Is Needed

Following the legal review, we will receive guidance on next steps and, if necessary, proceed with formal action. **At this time, our current funds will cover only the initial review.** However, should we need to engage further with the Prosecuting Attorney or the Commissioners, **additional resources will be required.** All donations are used 100% towards advocacy efforts around regs and real estate increases.

We are calling on all members to participate and assist in this critical effort. The future of our lodging businesses is at stake. If you have not yet contributed, we ask you to consider making a \$100 donation or higher as this will greatly strengthen our ability to respond quickly and effectively on your behalf. If you have donated and can give more, we welcome your support.

You can donate any amount by visiting our website or by clicking the link below:

<https://www.hockinghillslodgingownersassociation.com/donate/>

HHLOA Board