



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**BLENDON – WESTERVILLE JOINT ECONOMIC ZONE
FRANKLIN COUNTY
DECEMBER 31, 2022 and 2021**

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Blendon Westerville Joint Economic Development Zone
Franklin County
575 Charring Cross Drive
Westerville, Ohio 43081

To the Governing Body:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the Blendon Westerville Joint Economic Development Zone , Franklin County, Ohio (the JEDZ), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for the governmental fund type combined total as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for the governmental fund type combined total as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions which Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the JEDZ, as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, or the changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the JEDZ, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the JEDZ on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 2 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the JEDZ's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the JEDZ's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the JEDZ's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 16, 2024, on our consideration of the JEDZ's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the JEDZ's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the JEDZ's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

May 16, 2024

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**Blendon-Westerville Joint Economic Development Zone
Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements And
Changes in Fund Cash and Balances Governmental
Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022**

Cash Receipts	2022
Income Taxes	\$2,471,853
Penalties and Interest	\$4,222
Total Cash Receipts	<u>\$2,476,075</u>
Cash Disbursements	
Income Tax Disbursements, Blendon Twp	243,685
Income Tax Disbursements, City of Westerville	2,144,421
Income Tax Collection Fee	49,731
Auditor Fee	369
Fiber Infrastructure	30,000
Marketing	7,547
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>\$2,475,753</u>
Net Change in Fund Cash Balance	322
Fund Cash Balance, January 1	\$279,267
Fund Cash Balance December 31	<u><u>\$279,589</u></u>

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT

Blendon – Westerville Joint Economic Development Zone

Franklin County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 1 – Description of the Entity

The Blendon – Westerville Joint Economic Development Zone (the “JEDZ”) is a political and corporate body for the purpose of enjoying and exercising the rights and privileges conferred upon it under a contract between Blendon Township (the “Township”) and the City of Westerville (the “City”). The JEDZ may sue and be sued, and plead and be impleaded in its own name. The JEDZ Board of Directors (the “Board”) has specific powers set forth in the contract and, in addition, shall have the power to do all acts that it determines to be necessary and appropriate to carry out its authorized purposes pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 715.691.

The JEDZ operates under the Board established by the City and Township with each appointing three members of the Board to serve terms of two years. No more than one member of the Board shall be an elected officer of the City or the Township, respectively. The elected official shall not serve as Chair of the Board. The City and Township, in their sole discretion, may reappoint members of the Board for additional terms on the Board. The members of the Board serve without compensation. The JEDZ operates on a calendar year basis.

The Board is authorized to promote, advertise, and publicize the JEDZ and its authorized purposes, and provide information to persons with an interest in establishing or expanding business and employment opportunities within the JEDZ. The Board may establish and collect fees for the provision of any promotional, advertising, and publicity services rendered at the request of a business or landowner within the JEDZ.

The term of the contract for the existence of the JEDZ terminates on December 31, 2042, and automatically renews unless the Township or the City provides written notice to the other that it has elected to not renew the contract (see Note 6). Notice is to be not more than 365 days and not less than 180 days prior to the expiration of the then current term of the contract. Upon the termination (i) the levy of JEDZ income tax shall cease, (ii) any remaining assets or funds of the JEDZ shall be distributed as follows: 25% to the City and 75% to the Township, and (iii) the City and the Township shall be the successors in interest to any uncollected funds and unliquidated assets of the JEDZ, including the interest of the JEDZ in any legal proceedings, in the proportions set forth above.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Accounting Basis

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The JEDZ recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved). These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C) permit.

B. Fund Accounting

The JEDZ uses fund accounting to maintain its financial records. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Funds can be used to segregate resources that are restricted as to use. The JEDZ’s only fund is the General Fund.

Blendon – Westerville Joint Economic Development Zone

Franklin County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

B. Fund Accounting (continued)

The General Fund accounts for and reports all financial resources. The general fund balance is available to the JEDZ for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

C. Cash

JEDZ cash is held in one checking depository account. There were no investments during the year. Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

D. Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Entity must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable When amounts cannot be spent because they are either: (a), not in a spendable form; or (b), legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted When constraints placed on the use of resources are either: (a), externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (b), imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed When the Board of Directors passes resolutions requiring specific revenues be used for specific purposes. The Board can modify or rescind such resolutions at any time through additional formal action.

Assigned When a revenue source is not previously restricted or committed, but the Treasurer determines, in the Treasurer's professional opinion, that the assigning of the revenue is desired or made at the direction of the Board.

Unassigned When resources have not been assigned to other Board commitments or contractual responsibilities, and have not been restricted, committed, or assigned to any other specific purposes.

The JEDZ will apply restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balances, committed amounts are reduced first, followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 7.

Note 3 – Income Taxes

The JEDZ levies a 2 percent income tax whose proceeds are placed into the General Fund. The JEDZ levies and collects the tax on all income earned within the JEDZ. Employers within the JEDZ are required to withhold income tax on employee earnings and remit the tax to the JEDZ monthly or quarterly depending on the amount of taxes involved.

Blendon – Westerville Joint Economic Development Zone

Franklin County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 3 – Income Taxes (Continued)

Individual taxpayers, whose only income is subject to withholding by employers, are not required to file a final annual return. Corporations and other individual taxpayers are required to pay their estimated tax at least quarterly or file a final return annually.

The net income tax revenues are distributed 70 percent to the Township, and 30 percent to the City. The distributions are made quarterly. The allocation to the Township is restricted to purposes of the JEDZ. The allocation to the City is recorded in the General Fund. The JEDZ Board retains two percent for operations of the JEDZ.

Note 4 – Cash

The carrying amount of cash as of December 31, 2022 was as follows:

	<u>2022</u>
Demand deposits	\$279,589

Note 5 – Contributions

As part of the contract forming the JEDZ, the Township and City provide certain services to the JEDZ. The Township furnishes all usual and customary governmental services furnished by the Township to the other territory of the Township, including, but not limited to administration of zoning, maintenance of township roads, snow removal, fire protection, police protection, emergency medical services and general administration. The City pursuant to the JEDZ income tax agreement furnishes services set forth in the income tax agreement and engages in activities to promote, complement and benefit economic development in the JEDZ. The Township and the City may provide additional services as allowed by law as the Township and/or City and the Board deem appropriate and agree. The fair value of the services provided are not determined and recorded in the financial statements.

Note 6 – Contractual Commitments

The JEDZ contracts with the City of Westerville (the “City”) for the collection of the Income Tax. The Board compensates the City not to exceed the sum of 2 percent of the gross revenues for 2022 for the collection of the income tax. The amount paid to the City for these services in 2022 was \$49,731.

Note 7 – Fund Balances

The JEDZ only has one fund which is the General Fund. By its nature, the General Fund has an unassigned fund balance designation due to a lack of internal or external restrictions on funding.

Note 8 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June 2021 while the national state of emergency ended in April 2023.

**Blendon-Westerville Joint Economic Development Zone
Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements
And Changes in Fund Cash and Balances
Governmental Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021**

Cash Receipts	2021
Income Taxes	\$2,238,921
Penalties and Interest	\$3,432
Total Cash Receipts	<u>\$2,242,353</u>
Cash Disbursements	
Income Tax Disbursements, Blendon Twp	219,751
Income Tax Disbursements, City of Westerville	1,933,805
Income Tax Collection Fee	44,847
Accounting	
Auditor Fee	1,427
Business Fee Reimbursement	
Economic Development Plan, Blendon Twp	
Fiber Infrastructure	
Legal	
Marketing	
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>\$2,199,830</u>
Net Change in Fund Cash Balance	42,523
Fund Cash Balance, January 1	\$236,744
Fund Cash Balance December 31	<u><u>\$279,267</u></u>

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT

Blendon – Westerville Joint Economic Development Zone

Franklin County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 1 – Description of the Entity

The Blendon – Westerville Joint Economic Development Zone (the “JEDZ”) is a political and corporate body for the purpose of enjoying and exercising the rights and privileges conferred upon it under a contract between Blendon Township (the “Township”) and the City of Westerville (the “City”). The JEDZ may sue and be sued, and plead and be impleaded in its own name. The JEDZ Board of Directors (the “Board”) has specific powers set forth in the contract and, in addition, shall have the power to do all acts that it determines to be necessary and appropriate to carry out its authorized purposes pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 715.691.

The JEDZ operates under the Board established by the City and Township with each appointing three members of the Board to serve terms of two years. No more than one member of the Board shall be an elected officer of the City or the Township, respectively. The elected official shall not serve as Chair of the Board. The City and Township, in their sole discretion, may reappoint members of the Board for additional terms on the Board. The members of the Board serve without compensation. The JEDZ operates on a calendar year basis.

The Board is authorized to promote, advertise, and publicize the JEDZ and its authorized purposes, and provide information to persons with an interest in establishing or expanding business and employment opportunities within the JEDZ. The Board may establish and collect fees for the provision of any promotional, advertising, and publicity services rendered at the request of a business or landowner within the JEDZ.

The term of the contract for the existence of the JEDZ terminates on December 31, 2042, and automatically renews unless the Township or the City provides written notice to the other that it has elected to not renew the contract (see Note 6). Notice is to be not more than 365 days and not less than 180 days prior to the expiration of the then current term of the contract. Upon the termination (i) the levy of JEDZ income tax shall cease, (ii) any remaining assets or funds of the JEDZ shall be distributed as follows: 25% to the City and 75% to the Township, and (iii) the City and the Township shall be the successors in interest to any uncollected funds and unliquidated assets of the JEDZ, including the interest of the JEDZ in any legal proceedings, in the proportions set forth above.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Accounting Basis

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The JEDZ recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved). These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C) permit.

B. Fund Accounting

The JEDZ uses fund accounting to maintain its financial records. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Funds can be used to segregate resources that are restricted as to use. The JEDZ’s only fund is the General Fund.

Blendon – Westerville Joint Economic Development Zone

Franklin County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

B. Fund Accounting (continued)

The General Fund accounts for and reports all financial resources. The general fund balance is available to the JEDZ for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

C. Cash

JEDZ cash is held in one checking depository account. There were no investments during the year. Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

D. Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Entity must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable When amounts cannot be spent because they are either: (a), not in a spendable form; or (b), legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted When constraints placed on the use of resources are either: (a), externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (b), imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed When the Board of Directors passes resolutions requiring specific revenues be used for specific purposes. The Board can modify or rescind such resolutions at any time through additional formal action.

Assigned When a revenue source is not previously restricted or committed, but the Treasurer determines, in the Treasurer's professional opinion, that the assigning of the revenue is desired or made at the direction of the Board.

Unassigned When resources have not been assigned to other Board commitments or contractual responsibilities, and have not been restricted, committed, or assigned to any other specific purposes.

The JEDZ will apply restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balances, committed amounts are reduced first, followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 7.

Note 3 – Income Taxes

The JEDZ levies a 2 percent income tax whose proceeds are placed into the General Fund. The JEDZ levies and collects the tax on all income earned within the JEDZ. Employers within the JEDZ are required to withhold income tax on employee earnings and remit the tax to the JEDZ monthly or quarterly depending on the amount of taxes involved.

Blendon – Westerville Joint Economic Development Zone

Franklin County

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 3 – Income Taxes (Continued)

Individual taxpayers, whose only income is subject to withholding by employers, are not required to file a final annual return. Corporations and other individual taxpayers are required to pay their estimated tax at least quarterly or file a final return annually.

The net income tax revenues are distributed 70 percent to the Township, and 30 percent to the City. The distributions are made quarterly. The allocation to the Township is restricted to purposes of the JEDZ. The allocation to the City is recorded in the General Fund. The JEDZ Board retains two percent for operations of the JEDZ.

Note 4 – Cash

The carrying amount of cash as of December 31, 2021 was as follows:

Demand deposits	<u>2021</u> \$279,267
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Note 5 – Contributions

As part of the contract forming the JEDZ, the Township and City provide certain services to the JEDZ. The Township furnishes all usual and customary governmental services furnished by the Township to the other territory of the Township, including, but not limited to administration of zoning, maintenance of township roads, snow removal, fire protection, police protection, emergency medical services and general administration. The City pursuant to the JEDZ income tax agreement furnishes services set forth in the income tax agreement and engages in activities to promote, complement and benefit economic development in the JEDZ. The Township and the City may provide additional services as allowed by law as the Township and/or City and the Board deem appropriate and agree. The fair value of the services provided are not determined and recorded in the financial statements.

Note 6 – Contractual Commitments

The JEDZ contracts with the City of Westerville (the “City”) for the collection of the Income Tax. The Board compensates the City not to exceed the sum of 2 percent of the gross revenues for 2021 for the collection of the income tax. The amount paid to the City for these services in 2021 was \$44,847.

Note 7 – Fund Balances

The JEDZ only has one fund which is the General Fund. By its nature, the General Fund has an unassigned fund balance designation due to a lack of internal or external restrictions on funding.

Note 8 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June 2021 while the national state of emergency ended in April 2023.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Blendon Westerville Joint Economic Development Zone
Franklin County
575 Charring Cross Drive
Westerville, Ohio 43081

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statement of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for the governmental fund type combined total as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 and the related notes to the financial statements of the Blendon Westerville Joint Economic Development Zone, Franklin County, (the JEDZ) and have issued our report thereon dated May 16, 2024, wherein we noted the JEDZ followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the JEDZ's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the JEDZ's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the JEDZ's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the JEDZ's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the JEDZ's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the JEDZ's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the JEDZ's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

May 16, 2024

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



BLENDON WESTERVILLE JOINT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE

FRANKLIN COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 7/9/2024

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov