RESOLUTION

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RESOLUTION NO. 2026-16

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CLEVELAND-CLIFFS MIDDLETOWN WORKS' ENERGY RECOVERY AND ADVANCED EFFICIENT IRONMAKING PROJECT.

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors (the "Board") of the Butler County Finance Authority (the "Authority") has reviewed the Letter of Support attached hereto as Exhibit A regarding Cleveland-Cliffs Middletown Works' Permit-to-Install ("PTI") application for the Energy Recovery and Advanced Efficient Ironmaking Project; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that supporting transformational investments that preserve and create family-sustaining employment opportunities, encourage private capital investment, and strengthen the economic vitality of Butler County is consistent with the mission and purpose of the Authority;

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby approves the Letter of Support attached as Exhibit A and authorizes its submission in support of Cleveland-Cliffs Middletown Works' Permit-to-Install application for the Energy Recovery and Advanced Efficient Ironmaking Project;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman and President & Chief Executive Officer are authorized to execute and transmit the Letter of Support on behalf of the Butler County Finance Authority;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY the Board of Directors of the Butler County Finance Authority, this **24th** day of **June, 2026**.

Motion to pass Resolution by Director Brian Fox, Seconded by

Director Rob Wile.

Donah Canaan ________ Acting Chairperson, Butler County Finance Authority

Attest: ________ President & CEO, Butler County Finance Authority

BCFA
BUTLER COUNTY FINANCE AUTHORITY

June 24, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Butler County Finance Authority (BCFA), we are writing to express our strong support for Cleveland-Cliffs' Permit-to-Install (PTI) application for the Energy Recovery and Advanced Efficient Ironmaking Project at Middletown Works.

The Butler County Finance Authority serves as the county's economic development finance organization, providing financing solutions, strategic partnerships, and economic development tools that support job creation, capital investment, adaptive reuse, infrastructure development, and long-term economic competitiveness throughout Butler County. As an organization focused on strengthening the regional economy and advancing transformational investment opportunities, we recognize the critical importance of Cleveland-Cliffs' Middletown Works to the economic health and prosperity of our community.

Middletown Works is the largest employer in the City of Middletown and among the largest employers in Butler County. The facility directly employs approximately 2,300 individuals represented by the International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local Lodge 1943. These family-sustaining jobs provide excellent wages and benefits that support thousands of residents throughout our region.

The impact of Middletown Works extends far beyond its workforce. The steel mill serves as an anchor for a broader manufacturing and supply chain ecosystem that includes contractors, service providers, logistics companies, steel service centers, and manufacturers throughout Southwest Ohio. It is estimated that the facility supports more than 8,000 indirect jobs and generates over $200 million annually in local purchases of goods and services.

A strong and competitive Middletown Works is essential to the continued economic vitality of Middletown, Butler County, and the surrounding region.

For this reason, BCFA strongly supports Cleveland-Cliffs' plans to modernize and enhance ironmaking operations at Middletown Works. The proposed investment will strengthen the facility's long-term competitiveness through improvements to material handling systems, advanced technologies, and operational controls that support the production of high-quality automotive-grade steel products. These improvements represent a significant commitment to the future of domestic steelmaking and advanced manufacturing in Ohio.

Equally important, the project will improve energy efficiency and further reduce emissions through the beneficial reuse of steelmaking process gases that would otherwise be flared. The addition of a cogeneration facility will allow Middletown Works to generate a substantial portion of its own electricity demand while improving overall environmental performance. These investments position the facility for long-term success while advancing responsible industrial operations.

The project will also provide a significant short-term economic benefit through construction activity, supporting up to 1,500 jobs at peak construction. Many of these positions are expected to be filled by local union building trades, generating additional economic activity throughout the region.

This investment represents exactly the type of transformational project that strengthens communities, supports family-sustaining employment, encourages private capital investment, and reinforces Ohio's position as a leader in advanced manufacturing.

Accordingly, the Butler County Finance Authority respectfully encourages the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to approve the requested Permit-to-Install application and enable Cleveland-Cliffs to move forward with this important investment in Middletown Works.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Donah Canaan

Dona Canaan
Acting Chairperson
Butler County Finance Authority

Joshua A. Smith
President & Chief Executive Officer
Butler County Finance Authority