



**Amy Murray**  
*Councilmember*

## **Ohio House Local Government Committee**

### **Councilmember Amy Murray, City of Cincinnati House Bill 5**

**March 10, 2015**

Madam Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Ryan, Ranking Member Rogers, and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 5.

I currently Chair the Major Transportation and Regional Cooperation Committee for Cincinnati City Council. Regional cooperation between our city and neighboring entities in the provision of public services is an important priority. For many years, local governments have found ways to share services and equipment with neighbors to create efficiencies for taxpayers and to help in time of need.

Over the past year, our committee has teamed with Hamilton County to look for opportunities for greater collaboration and service to local residents. More recently, our Committee joined with our Director of Public Services Gerald Checco in bringing the Auditor of State to address a local contingency of public works/service directors and fleet managers in order to preview ShareOhio.

The ShareOhio web based application created by the Auditor of State is new tool for sharing heavy equipment that is now available to local governments moving us all toward greater efficiencies. The ability to share and borrow equipment will save taxpayer money and, I believe, make us all better neighbors when we can easily and voluntarily collaborate.

As a fiduciary agent of the City of Cincinnati, I want to protect the resources and assets for which I am responsible. My request today is for a revision to the Ohio Revised Code that would provide some basic protections to local governments when they share their equipment.

I have been advised that indemnification for the owner of the equipment is one of the biggest obstacles. House Bill 5 would provide that protection in a civil action for damages for injury, death, or loss to person or property that is associated with the sharing of equipment.

I think this would go a long way toward encouraging the sharing of equipment and make it more feasible for local governments.

#### **COMMITTEES**