

1/28/2018

The Honorable Tom Brinkman
77 S. High Street 11th Floor
Ohio House of Representatives
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Ohio House of Representatives,

As a resident of the great State of Ohio, I urge you to support House Bill Number 175 General Assembly 132. This is a great way to allow residents to farm for their own food while knowing where it has come from. Many individuals like me have not been afforded this opportunity because of city limits. I live in the city of Middleburg Heights located in Cuyahoga County. The city has zoning codes that prohibit me from keeping any livestock on my land. My lot is 80 feet by 130 feet or 10,400 square feet. The zoning code allows livestock on 20,000 square foot lots or larger. There are restrictions for placement of barn or shed housing for the animals. Structures must be 50 feet from a property line and 150 feet from a residence, which is very limiting.

I pursued the Middleburg Heights City Council and Mayor Gary Starr to possibly change the zoning code or allow a trial run mayor pilot program for chickens or goats. After many long conversations with my council person Mr. Bill Meany, he told me there was no way Middleburg Heights City Council would ever allow it. City Council consists of 7 individuals and there was a total of 5 hard no answers. After many contacts to the Mayor it was stated that Middleburg Heights was not very country but there were zoning codes that allowed it in certain areas. Berea, Ohio a bordering city to Middleburg Heights allows chickens and that didn't seem to matter to City Council either.

In closing, it would be nice to move to a property with land out of the city limits but sometimes it is not financially feasible. I am in support of the farm to table movement and would love to raise some backyard hens and have a large garden to be able to make my own healthy food choices for my family. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter, and I hope you would consider passing this bill along to further the betterment of the people of Ohio.

Sincerely,
Scott Kwapinski
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