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Ohio Manufactured Homes Association

Proponent Testimony – HB 342

House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee

November 1, 2017

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chairman Reineke, and Ranking Member Clyde, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 342, sponsored by Representative Merrin. Since 1947 the Ohio Manufactured Homes Association (OMHA) has represented all segments of the manufactured housing industry including manufactured homes communities (MHC) that provide affordable housing. Over 900,000 Ohioans live in manufactured homes.

House Bill 342 proposes to disallow a property tax levy to be voted on in a special election. OMHA supports this effort as our members and homeowners are payors of significant property taxes.

It is safe to state many park owners do not live in the manufactured home parks they own. Therefore, they do not get the opportunity to vote on the tax issues that are proposed by the various local political subdivisions.

We believe given the small minority of voters that exercise their voting rights during special elections it is in all taxpayers' best interest to only permit tax levies to be voted on during primary or general election ballots when participation is higher. It is well known that many school districts and local taxing authorities often opt for special elections knowing turnout will be low.

I believe the school districts and other taxing authorities choose special elections recognizing most voters who do turnout typically were strongly advocated to do so



by local school districts or taxing authorities recognizing the broader voting population is less aware as most voters are conditioned to participate in major primary and general elections.

Just as when homeowners and park operators are faced with higher utility rates, higher taxes are passed on to the homeowners and tenants/residents of the parks in the form of higher rents. We believe these decisions should be left to a broad cross section of taxpayers whereby election outcomes are not as easily influenced by special tax increase interests that often look to “sneak by” tax increases when most voters are least aware.

OMHA views House Bill 342 as fair and taxpayer friendly and we urge your support for the bill.

Thank you, Chairman Blessing, and members of the committee for the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 342.