

Chairman Blessing and members of the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit written proponent testimony on House Bill 410.

On January 24, 2015 I for the first time ever passed through the Village of Mifflin, Ashland county, Ohio. In that once ever pass through Mifflin, I was ticketed twice for a single speeding offense but that was left unknown to me for over two months and I am being denied any semblance of due process while having made a good faith effort to resolve this secretive duplicity.

I was clocked by a village police officer via radar as exceeding the speed limit at 2:50 p.m. on January 24, 2015(see cc of paper speeding citation). Before the officer even had time to stop me to issue the citation I had unknowingly passed a “speed camera” which also noted the same speeding event only one minute later at 2:51 p.m. and 3/10ths of a mile further down the road. (see Past Due Notice from www.OnlineCitationPayment.com and dated March 17, 2015. More on this notice to follow).

Once I received the “known” paper ticket from the in-person officer I immediately made payment of \$119.00 with Ashland county acknowledging receipt of payment on January 29, 2015 (see attached court receipt).

End of story. Or not.

On March 17, 2015 I received a “Delinquent Notice of Liability” letter (copy attached) accusing me of failing respond to an unspecified earlier speeding violation notice. While an earlier speeding citation had been allegedly issued with a penalty /fine of \$100.00 I was now being told that due to my non-response I was now to be fined \$125.00 more for the same offense.

The first speed camera citation had been mailed to my old address in Gahanna, Ohio an address I had moved away from three years earlier. I thought that mailing to that address was odd as I had renewed my driver’s license in Streetsboro Ohio on November 5, 2014 and the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles recorded a change in my home address to the Streetsboro address effective November 5, 2014 (see letter from Ohio BMV dated April 7, 2015, attached).

I then proceeded to make dozens of futile phone calls to the police officer (chief?) who cited me, the OnlineCitationPayment.com speed camera company, Ashland Municipal court, the Mayor of Village of Mifflin, the Ohio DMV all of whom collectively shrugged their shoulders and/or sympathized with my predicament of being charged/billed twice for the same single speeding event but none of whom could/or would accept any responsibility in stopping me from being doubly charged for a single offense.

In desperation I contested the double jeopardy brought on by this peculiar situation in a letter to the Mayor of the Village of Mifflin dated April 7,2015.

As of today's date, I have yet to hear from ANY PARTY as to the status of my appeal and I doubt that I ever will, except to say that I went back to the www.OnlineCitationPayment.com website and note that my unresolved second fine for the same offense is now \$180.00.. The only written communication I have received from them threatens to add "collection costs" and to turn me over to a collection agency.

Summary

I retired with more than 37 years of state service and I am insulted that a secretive clandestine non-governmental agency was ever allowed to badger and threaten me or any other licensed driver under color of doing the government's work. Strong arm tactics of this nature by a governmental agency would never be tolerated. Ever.

My ticketing scenario clearly demonstrates that there is a quasi-legal effort to penalize me twice for one offense for which I long ago acknowledged fault. Who knows? Perhaps the private money grubbing contractor waited until I paid my fine and then attempted to bill me again once it knew I had acknowledged guilt.

If you read the supporting documents you will clearly see that the private speed camera company's communications were solely built to coerce immediate payment. You will not find a single sentence about how to contest/appeal the speed camera citation. You will not be able to enter their web site (unless you have been ticketed too) but if you could you would not find any option other than to pay fast and in full.

The Village of Mifflin in Ashland county is .18 square mile in area and has a resident population of 134. Mifflin had 2 speed cameras in operation when I was cited for speeding. If the city of Columbus (less the suburbs) at 223 square miles and 860,000 residents were to try to compete with the Village of Mifflin it would require 1226 speed cameras based solely on geographic area or 12,835 cameras based on population.

HB 410 must be enacted in it's entirety. The state cannot incentivize speed enforcement through third party private contractors. I encourage you to favorably consider House Bill 410.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Estock

