

HB 69 Proponent Testimony – Jackson Township

Madam Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the House State & Local Government committee. My name is Shawn Quincel and I serve as the Deputy Fire Chief for the Jackson Township Fire Department in Grove City, Ohio, which employs nearly 100 firefighters and paramedics protecting a resident population in excess of 42,000.

Grove City is located just south of Columbus and is a rapidly developing suburban community. Our documentation proves increases in emergency runs every year for the last 20 years as we track increases in both residential population and commercial development. As the city grows, demands for our services continue to grow. However, our revenues have not grown with these developments because of the TIFs enacted by our connected city.

In all fairness, our municipal partner, the City of Grove City, has only six TIF districts encompassing approximately 1,400 parcels. In 2003, the Grove City and Jackson Township negotiated a TIF reimbursement of \$2.5 million for the construction of a new fire station; however, the previously enacted six TIFs are reducing Township funding by approximately \$1.1million per year. That is \$1.1 million in funding that should be going to Jackson Township fire levies.

The present TIF laws divert money that our residents voted for when passing those fire levies to Grove City to build streets and utilities for more and more new residents and businesses. The City is also collecting income tax on the commercial businesses, while the Township Fire Department is left with the obligation to provide services to residents and businesses whose tax dollars are not being used to pay for those services.

Without HB 69 our only recourse for funding is to go back to the ballot and seek an increase in our fire and EMS levy to replace the taxes lost as a result of Grove City's TIFs.

I would like to thank Representative Cupp and the co-sponsors of this legislation. Madam Chair and members of the Committee, your approval of HB 69 is about fairness, and gives townships a seat at the table if and when the city wants to offer a TIF to a developer. I urge your support of this legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.