



Representatives Steve Hambley and Darrell Kick

Chair Anielski, Ranking Member Bishoff and members of the State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony today on House Bill 134. House Bill 134 would amend the Revised Code to allow Community Improvement Boards created under Sections 307.282, 307.283 and 5739.026 of the Revised Code to provide grants for permanent improvement purposes to school districts that go across county borders so long as the improvements are still within the school district.

To be clear, this bill is a very specific but important modification of current law that if enrolled would affect only three school districts in Ohio. Currently, Medina County is the only county in Ohio that has a sales and use tax for permanent improvements that go to school districts in the county. Since approved by the voters in May, 2007, a one-half percent sales and use tax is distributed on a per-pupil basis to each school district and can be spent only for permanent improvements *within the county*. The attached School Sales Tax Fact Sheet used in the campaign to educate Medina County voters about the issue describes a bit more detail about the CIB and the underlying agreements between the Board of County Commissioners and all of the public school districts in the county for the distribution of those funds.

There are 11 school districts that serve students from Medina County. Of these 11 districts, eight serve only Medina County students, and have all of their buildings within the county. Three districts, however, serve small portions of Medina County, yet have no physical facilities within the county. Because community improvement grants must be spent on permanent improvements, these three districts can only spend their Medina County sales tax grant money on school vehicles and text books, rather than improving facilities and infrastructure.

Black River, Norwayne and Rittman School Districts would be the sole beneficiaries of House Bill 134, as it stands today. As you can see in another attached document, these three districts received the following amounts in 2016:

- Black River Local School District: \$244,972.01
- Norwayne Local School District: \$31,179.93
- Rittman Exempted Village School District: \$9,001.63



Representatives Steve Hambley and Darrell Kick

House Bill 134 would give these school districts the option to spend these revenues for permanent improvements where the locally elected school board members deem the most appropriate. We have heard from administrators at these districts that if they had the option, they would invest these dollars in building repair and improvements. Because of this technicality in law, they are currently prohibited from doing so.

We would like to conclude by stating that House Bill 134 does not raise taxes or create any new tax. House Bill 134 only gives school districts who benefit from the Medina County Community Improvement Board approved grants the ability to use the revenue they already collect where they deem best. As you can see by our cosponsors, this bill is strongly supported by the four representatives who represent these school districts. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. We are available for any questions.