

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Marlene Anielski  
Chair, House State & Local Government Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Support for HB 291

Dear Chair Anielski,

I am writing to give my support to HB 291. I am the current fiscal officer for Baughman Township in Wayne County, an office I have held for 25 years.

I became aware of the inconsistencies in bonding back in 2006. Township trustees must secure a bond in the amount of \$1,000 pursuant to R.C. §505.02. Township fiscal officers, on the other hand, have bonding amounts based on the township's budget (R.C. §507.03). In my case, Baughman Township has a budget of \$1.9 million which makes my bond \$160,000. The trustees are responsible for making the financial decisions of the township, yet their bonds total only \$3,000.

Comparatively, the Wayne County Auditor and Treasurer are responsible for a budget of greater than \$139 million and yet the bond for the Auditor is only \$20,000. The County Treasurer is only bonded at \$50,000. This proves that the bonding system is inconsistent and antiquated and is in need of change.

Baughman Township has decided to carry an employee dishonesty policy for the purposes of protecting the township against any type of theft by an elected official or employee. We essentially are double covered. The bonds cover faithful performance and the insurance policy covers theft. With the passage of HB 291, we could secure a policy that would do both and would be a more complete coverage option.

I appreciate my representative, Rep. Scott Wiggam, bringing this measure to your attention and I fully support his efforts with HB 291. Should you have any questions or concerns, or would like more information about my position, please do not hesitate to contact me at 330.749.8575 or by email at eebaer@aol.com.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Baer  
Fiscal Officer  
Baughman Township, Wayne County