

Sponsor Testimony HB 470  
State and Local Government  
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Chairwoman Anielski, Vice-Chairman Hambley, Ranking Member Barnes, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee thank you for providing me with an opportunity to give written testimony today on House Bill 470. My name is Ed Mash and I am the current city council president in Nelsonville, OH. House Bill 470 is legislation that will allow political subdivisions to levy a property tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation to provide funding for the installation, operation and maintenance of lighting for roads and public spaces. This legislation will have a positive effect on the city of Nelsonville and that is why I am in support of this legislation.

Political subdivisions under current law generally cover the cost of lighting with their general revenue fund. This legislation would allow these jurisdictions to levy a property tax that will appear on the ballot before voters.

The city of Nelsonville has fallen on hard economic times since Route 33 has bypassed the city. It is a struggle to fund our local government entities and it is a challenge to pass a levy for our general revenue fund to cover the installation, operation and maintenance of our street lighting system. This legislation allows voters to be confident that they are voting on a levy that will improve street lighting in our Community. Previously ballot language made it unclear how potential streetlight levy dollars would be spent if approved due to the scope of the general revenue fund. Due to this concern, it has been nearly impossible to pass a levy in our community but with this legislation, it would clarify the intent of our levy and allow our community to be an attractive place to do business and raise a family.

With help from this committee, municipalities in Ohio can provide their voters with greater transparency and accountability on their ballots. I ask that you please support HB 470 and thank you again for allowing me to provide this written testimony.