

May 16, 2018

Testimony & Documents

OHIO HOUSE

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

HB 530

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit. In lieu of not being present, I wish to submit the attached document: An email from a Public Record Request on the City of Cincinnati that captured an email sent by Leslie Spencer, Executive Director of the Gr. Cincinnati Sports Commission division of the Gr. Cincinnati CVB. This details the aggressive attack on Hart Productions future shows dates by the tax funded agency WITHOUT our knowledge. This aggression, at various levels of the Great Cincinnati CVB has occurred over the last 30 years, is the direct result of elected officials or their designated local government employee, sitting on their board, WITHOUT any oversight.

When elected government officials, or their designates, sit on these boards, it grants a form of immunity to any review of spending, ethics, or business practices when not subject to the transparency afforded by being subject to the Open Records Act. Hart Productions competes with the Cincinnati CVB for access to and the use of dates at the Convention Center. Therefore a tax funded CVB competes directly with a private for profit local corporation which in turn becomes highly politicized with an unfair competitive environment.

I urge this committee to bring about much needed change, transparency, ethics, and above all, honesty by insuring that there is access to allow for oversight of the use of tax money by CVB's. Therefore, I reassert the request for a convention & visitor's bureau to be subject to the Freedom of Information Act, or the Open Records Act for the tax funding it receives when there are board members that are elected officials, or their designate, or members of a government administration.

Submitted by Chip Hart

HART RPRODUCTIONS, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chip Hart", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.