

May 16, 2017

House Ways & Means Committee  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Proponent Testimony for HB 105

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chairman Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers and members of the House Ways and Means Committee. I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 105. My name is Dale Dietrich, a resident of Benton Township, Monroe County, a local trustee and President of the Monroe County Township Association. I come today not only with my own personal testimony of what HB105 would do for my township and county, but also on behalf of all the townships of Monroe County.

In reading the legislation and analysis, House Bill 105 would allow excess money from the present oil and gas severance tax, currently funding the Division of Oil & Gas at ODNR, to be used for local projects in the area that is directly impacted by the industry.

House Bill 105 would place a cap on the amount of revenue that would go to fund the Division of Oil & Gas and would allow all revenue collected in excess of this cap to be used for local projects, infrastructure and road maintenance in affected counties and townships, like Benton Township. The legislation will also establish a grant program for our local fire and EMS squads could apply for funds to better help manage their departments and meet the demands for their services in this area due to the increase in oil & gas activity.

Additionally, some of the excess revenue would be used to fund the Orphan Well Project, as our state faces a high number of abandoned, old and outdated wells.

House Bill 105 would help our local schools and, in turn, allow these school districts to offer more technical courses to meet the workforce demand that this area is presently experiencing. The excess funds that HB 105 would return to the shale area of Ohio, \$20–25 million per year, would provide the establishment of road maintenance funds in each of the impacted counties. Our local townships would be able to greatly enhance their road maintenance. With the establishment of the county fund, our county would be able to budget their money for the many infrastructures that all of our citizens need. Examples are: water and sewer projects, improved EMS service and, last but not least, better and modernized equipment.

In conclusion, I ask you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, to please pass House Bill 105 to allow my fellow citizens in Monroe County to have a more productive life without any increase of taxes on them or any citizen of the great State of Ohio. Again, thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of HB105 and I would be happy to answer any questions.