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Testimony by Mark Potts, Director of Government Relations, Franklin County Auditor's Office, before the Ohio House of Representatives Ways & Means Committee in support of House Bill 458

Chairman Schaffer, Vice-Chairman Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the House Ways & Means Committee, my name is Mark Potts and I am the Director of Government Relations for the office of Franklin County Auditor Clarence Mingo. I am here today to testify on behalf of Auditor Mingo and on behalf of the County Auditors' Association of Ohio as a proponent of House Bill 458. House Bill 458, introduced by Representative Lipps and Representative Ryan, provides that once the initial publication of a county delinquent property tax list is published in a newspaper of general circulation, the second publication of that list may be done online.

House Bill 458 will bring about a much needed cost savings measure to counties and taxing units across Ohio by allowing for the use of a county maintained or approved website for the second publication of this list. The first list will still need to be published in a newspaper of general circulation, as will the "display" notice which is published in advance of the list publication.

The publishing costs for these lists can be quite large. Franklin County publishes these lists as inserts into the Columbus Dispatch, and the cost to Franklin County for doing so in 2018 was \$17,036. That cost has dropped over the past few years, with the cost being \$94,760 as recent as 2014. The passage of House Bill 458 would lower the cost even more, freeing up much needed funds for Franklin County and counties and local taxing units around the State of Ohio. That is why I ask for the favorable passage of House Bill 458 by the House Ways & Means committee.

Chairman Schaffer, Vice-Chairman Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the House Ways & Means Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.