



Ohio Fair Managers Association
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Good Morning Chairman Koehler, Vice Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Brent and all members of the House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 665.

My name is Paul Harris and I am currently the 1st Vice President of the Ohio Fair Managers Association and I am from the Great Geauga County Fair. I am a third-generation director of the Geauga County Fair and have been a director for 28 years. During this time, I have held the position of vice president and president and currently serve as secretary/manager. In addition, I have served as director of several departments including Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Hay and Grain, Antique Tractors, Domestic Arts and Baked Goods. I have served as chairman of the Fair Foundation for the past eleven (11) years since its inception, helping to raise over \$400,000 for the fair capital improvements. As Secretary, I oversee the day-to-day operations of the fair, as well as supervising grounds maintenance, all public relations, promotions and advertising for the fair. I am the chairman of the fairs' Safety/Security, Junior Fair/Livestock Sale committees, and a member of the Property Development, Concessions, Fair Band and Bicentennial committees.

In addition to details of the bill discussed by Bev Fisher, I would like to review some of the other important provisions of HB 665.

- Distributions from county commissioners – In the bill we are proposing doubling the investment we get from the county commissioners from \$800 to \$1600. Now, we understand doubling might seem excessive. However, in today's dollars that \$800 should be closer to \$7700. We are also proposing removing reimbursement caps from junior fair reimbursement to fairs from the county commissioners. We believe if counties want to support more of the junior fair activities, the law should not prohibit them from doing so.
- Beers sales to pay for insurance – We have proposed eliminating the requirement that fairs use the proceeds of beer sales to first pay the insurance on their buildings. We are proposing this change because another section of law, 1711.24, requires the county commissioners to pay the insurance on the buildings. All buildings on county fair grounds are insured by their respective county commissioners, so this language did not make sense. Further, beer sales are often in partnership with other community non-profits, so fair income from beer sales is minimal. Additionally, there is a small number of fairs that even sell beer on their grounds.

- Amusement Ride Safety sections – These sections are being renumbered at the request of LSC.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for your consideration today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.