



**Proponent Testimony
House Bill 485
House Ways and Means Committee Hearing**

**Presented by: Ohio Cattlemen's Association
May 19, 2020**

Thank you Chairman Merrin, Vice Chairman LaRe, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee. This proponent testimony for HB 485 is submitted on behalf of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association by Elizabeth Harsh, Executive Director.

The Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA) is a membership organization that represents the business interests important to farm families throughout Ohio that raise cattle. It serves as the voice of the state's beef cattle business including cattle breeders, cow/calf producers and cattle feeders. It is the beef industry's grassroots policy organization. OCA's mission is to maintain profitability and growth of Ohio's beef industry, while providing consumers with safe and wholesome beef.

OCA appreciates the leadership of Representative Stephens and Representative Scherer to introduce legislation that removes unnecessary difficulties associated with CAUV renewals. HB 485 removes the requirement for property owners enrolled in the current agricultural use value (CAUV) program to submit a renewal application annually to remain in the program. The importance of Ohio's CAUV program that values land engaged in agriculture at a lower rate for property tax purposes cannot be overstated, especially considering the continued financial stress facing Ohio farmers.

Many beef cattle farmers have ground enrolled in the CAUV program and would welcome the option for their CAUV applications to renew automatically. OCA agrees that if the landowner make changes, then those changes should be reported annually. The proposed changes in HB 485 would reduce the paperwork for landowners and the risk of missing deadlines for absentee landowners. Furthermore, for some county offices, the proposed changes in HB 485 would potentially reduce their workload and administrative costs. We appreciate that many auditors will want to continue with their current renewal methods, and the bill allows for them to continue sending certified letters; it simply removes the requirement to do so and gives other auditors flexibility to use those procedures that best fit their counties.

Once again, thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for this opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association. If you have questions or would like additional information please call or email Elizabeth Harsh, OCA Executive Director at 614-873-6736 or eharsh@ohiocattle.org.