



OHIO SOYBEAN
ASSOCIATION

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**Ohio House of Representatives
Ways & Means Committee
House Bill 485 – Written Only Testimony
Tuesday, May 19, 2020**

Chair Merrin and distinguished members of the House Ways & Means Committee;

I am submitting testimony today on behalf of the Ohio Soybean Association (OSA) and its members in support of House Bill 485. OSA is a member-driven, grassroots organization dedicated to improving the business climate for Ohio soybean farmers by providing leadership and advocating for sound policy at the state and national levels. As the sixth-largest soybean producing state, soybeans are an important part of Ohio's economy. Soybeans are Ohio's largest crop by acreage and largest export crop. The industry employs more than 30,000 people and generates more than \$5.3 billion in economic activity annually.

The Current Agriculture Use Value (CAUV) is a formula used to value farmland based on its income producing potential from agricultural use only. This allows farmland devoted exclusively to commercial agriculture to be valued based on their value in agriculture, rather than the full market value.

HB 485 proposes to eliminate the requirement that owners of farmland enrolled in the CAUV program with over 10 acres must file a renewal application each year in order to remain in the program. Currently, a renewal application must be filed every year before the first Monday in March to continue in the CAUV program. This change would make it easier for farmers to stay enrolled in the CAUV program. Instead of filling out and turning in a CAUV renewal application every year, owners of agricultural land would simply have to submit documentation on the annual gross income of the land to county auditor every year. County auditor's office will still be required to check the farmland annually, as in current law, but these farmers will no longer be tasked with the renewal of the CAUV application.

This bill will help streamline the process and allow farmers to spend less time on paperwork and more time in the fields. It will also lower the risk of landowners losing CAUV status for a minor lapse in reregistration.

We thank Representatives Scherer and Stephens for introduction of this bill and this committee's consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can provide any more information or answer any questions.

Ryan Rhoades
President, Ohio Soybean Association
Soybean farmer in Marion County