



Logan Elm Local School District

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Testimony addressing SB 4 – Senate Finance Committee

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chairman Burke, Ranking Member Sykes, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee, my name is Tim Williams, and I am the Superintendent of Logan Elm Local Schools in Pickaway County. I would like to thank the Committee for allowing me to testify on Senate Bill 4, which would appropriate an additional \$100 million for the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission to continue their work.

Logan Elm Local Schools is a rural school district located roughly thirty miles south of Columbus in Pickaway and Hocking Counties. The district encompasses 199-square-miles and we educate approximately 1850 students. Our community still has principles that are rooted in an agricultural society: hard work, pride, honesty and family. Even though agriculture still plays a role, we have been fortunate to see economic development over the past several years, which has led to a decline in our unemployment rate. Most recently, the opening of Sofidel America brought an additional 350 jobs to the region.

Our relationship with OFCC began in 2003, when the District realized the need to address our aging buildings. The District currently has four buildings that are over 100 hundred years old; Pickaway Elementary built in 1912, Salt Creek Intermediate 1916, Laurelville Elementary 1917 and Washington Elementary 1917. Our newest school, McDowell Middle School, is approaching 50 years in age yet we continue to excel academically. Most recently, we received the Momentum Award from the Ohio Department of Education for our student's performance in value added. We represent less than 1% of the Districts in Ohio who received this recognition at least three times.

Since 2003, Logan Elm Schools have been on the ballot six times to address the needs of our buildings in order to provide our students with the same opportunities other students throughout the State are afforded. In November of 2018, after years of working with OFCC on various master plans, our community approved a bond issue to construct a new PK-12 building for our students. The local share of our project was 44.3 million dollars (74%) with OFCC allocating 13.8 million dollars (26%).

We are eager to begin our project as soon as possible. This would allow our District to capture low interest rates, eliminate cost associated with operating six aging buildings, and avoid inflationary cost. All Districts, working with OFCC, will benefit from moving SB 4 forward and the residents of Ohio will save money, if they can capture the lower interest rates and avoid the inflationary cost.

Logan Elm Schools and its residents are looking forward to the opening of our new PK-12 building that will provide our students with a safe, handicap accessible school that has the amenities of a modern school, not one built prior to the 1st World War!

Chairman Dolan, we greatly appreciate the opportunity to share a little about Logan Elm Local Schools and to offer testimony on Senate Bill 4. I would be happy to address any questions from the committee.