



*Forging a partnership between farmers and consumers.
•Working together for Ohio's farmers•*

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April 23, 2015

The Honorable Keith Faber
President, Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

The Honorable Clifford A. Rosenberger
Speaker, Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Compensation levels for Ohio's judges

Dear President Faber and Speaker Rosenberger:

As you know, Ohio is once again competitive and "open for business" and a key contributing factor to our success as a state is our legal environment. However, our legal system is only as good as the judges on the bench and that is why competitive compensation is critical in attracting and maintaining top judicial talent.

Our state court dockets are among the most packed, ranking 6th in total incoming caseloads with a total of 3.56 million cases in 2012. And while our courts are some of the busiest in the country, compensation for judges has not kept pace and remains unchanged since 2008. In fact, the National Center for State Courts notes Ohio's judicial pay ranks 39th for the highest court, 32nd for appellate courts, and 44th for trial courts.

Because of this, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation asks that you and your chamber give careful consideration and support for proposals that would grant a reasonable pay increase for Ohio's judges.

Thank you for your time and attention on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack Fisher".

Jack Fisher
Executive Vice President
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

cc: Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor
Supreme Court of Ohio
65 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

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April 6, 2015

The Honorable Clifford A. Rosenberger
Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street, 14th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Compensation levels for Ohio's Judges

Dear Speaker Rosenberger:

The above organizations, on behalf of our members, write in support of reasonable pay increases for Ohio's judges. The business community considers Ohio's legal environment to be a key factor contributing to our state's overall competitiveness. Well qualified judges are critical to a sound legal system. Therefore, competitive compensation is warranted in order to attract and retain the top legal talent on the bench.

To that end, we ask that you give careful consideration and support to proposals regarding reasonable pay increases for Ohio's judges.

Thank you kindly for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Roger R. Geiger
Vice President/Executive Director
NFIB/Ohio

Andrew Doehrel
President & CEO
Ohio Chamber of Commerce

Gordon Gough
President & CEO
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants

Jack Fisher
Executive Vice President
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

Eric Burkland
President
Ohio Manufacturers' Association

cc: Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor
Supreme Court of Ohio
65 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

OHIO COUNCIL OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

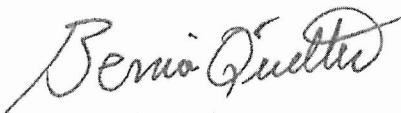
Auditors, Clerk of Court, Commissioners, Coroners, Engineers,
Ohio Judicial Conference, Prosecuting Attorneys, Recorders, Sheriffs, Treasurers

February 25, 2015

The Ohio Council of County Officials supports elected county official salaries that are sufficient to attract and retain the highest quality professionals to the most important positions in county government and encourages the 131st General Assembly to enact such legislation in year 2015.

At the meeting of the Compensation Committee of the Ohio Council of County officials on February 25, 2015, the members resolved to support the request of the Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court for a market adjustment to judicial salaries as included by Governor Kasich in his proposed biennial budget and in HB 64 currently pending.

This request is similar to the adjustment supported by this organization in HB 661 of the 130th General Assembly and is reasonable and necessary to attract and retain qualified judges to Ohio Courts.



Bernie Quilter
Lucas County Clerk of Courts and
President, Ohio Council of County Officials