



**House State & Local Government Committee**  
**March 13, 2018**  
**Written Testimony**  
**HB 500 Township Law Changes**

Good afternoon Chair Anielski, members of the House State & Local Government Committee. On behalf of the Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships (CLOUT), thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony **in support** of House Bill 500.

The Executive Committee of CLOUT maintains a list of legislative priorities that are agreed upon each General Assembly period by our membership and important to the 1,308 Townships in Ohio. Generally speaking these become priorities as a result of the experiences of our membership and the other Townships. House Bill 500 addresses three of those priorities that directly impact CLOUT Townships today.

HB 500 modifies the **Obligations Incurred Threshold (R.C. §507.11)** that a township employee or official could incur from \$2,500 up to \$10,000 as authorized by the Township Board of Trustees. In larger Townships with budgets over \$5,000,000, the restraint of a \$2,500 cap can slow the ability for the organization to react to needs in a timely manner. This change would allow, but not require, the Board of Trustees to authorize higher spending limits for officials in their community. Many of the expenditures that this will address have increased over the years from under the \$2,500 threshold to well above it today.

Also included in HB 500 is the creation of law for a **Community Event Fee (R.C. §503.58)** which would permit a Township to charge a community event fee to amounts being paid to certain events held within the Township. Many communities experience privately run events in their communities that create the need for additional staffing of police, fire, road and other personnel to ensure the safety of the public. While these events are beneficial to the general public and the private organizations or businesses, the cost to the Township is significant at times to provide the necessary safety services. This fee will help to cover those costs and shall not exceed an amount equal to 5% of the admission price.

The third priority for CLOUT addressed in HB 500 is a modification regarding the **Approval of a Township Road Name Change (R.C. §5541.04)**. This modification would require to the County Commissioners to act upon a request for a road name change from the Township within 60 days. If the county does not act within the 60 day period, the name shall be changed.

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, the CLOUT Executive Committee endorses House Bill 500 in its current form and respectfully urges your support of the measure.

2018-2019 CLOUT Executive Committee

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