

The Honorable Marlene Anielski
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, 12th floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

May 14, 2018

Chair Anielski:

The County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) and the County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO) are writing to request that the House State and Local Government Committee remove language regarding the vacating of township roads from HB 500. (Lines 1497-1501 of the bill).

The proposed language would prohibit a board of county commissioners from vacating a public road that is a township road unless the applicable board of township trustees has adopted a resolution approving the vacation.

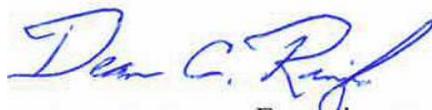
The board of commissioners is granted complete discretion under ORC Section 5553.04 to determine whether it is in the public convenience or welfare to locate, establish, alter, widen, straighten, vacate, or change the direction of a public road. To require a township to pass a resolution approving a vacation is essentially granting that township veto power and limiting the commissioners' exercise of their statutorily conferred discretion in determining the necessity for a township road vacation. Roads within the unincorporated area of the county are designated township roads and assigned to the township by the commissioners for maintenance purposes. However, these roads remain a part of the county road system for which the commissioners are assigned the ultimate authority under state law.

CCAO and CEAO would respectfully request the House State and Local Government Committee remove the proposed language and retain current law with respect to the vacation of township roads by a board of county commissioners.

Thank you,



John Leutz, Legislative Counsel
County Commissioners Association of Ohio



Dean Ringle, Executive Director
County Engineers Association of Ohio

