



OHIO NEWS MEDIA ASSOCIATION | 1335 DUBLIN ROAD, SUITE 216-B | COLUMBUS OH 43215
DENNIS R. HETZEL, PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 15, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Smith
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Ryan Smith,

On behalf of the Ohio News Media Association and as a member of the Municipal Tax Reform Coalition, I offer our support to the provisions in House Bill 49 that address municipal tax reform, specifically the sections to simplify the time and expense that many businesses, including local newspapers, face in filing multiple returns with multiple jurisdictions.

For example, this was a response we received from an accountant at the parent company of one of the state's largest media companies: "I would love to see this law go through to dramatically reduce the amount of time that it takes to file municipal income tax returns."

It is no secret that our members face significant challenge to their revenue models as they continue to provide journalism that matters to Ohio's communities on multiple platforms. We greatly appreciate efforts by the Legislature that will help lower expenses and allow businesses to shift resources from compliance to growth activities.

We also urge the Legislature to hold local governments harmless so that this either sustains their existing revenue or, better yet, results in increased funds due to the advantages of consolidation. As you know from our editorial pages, many of our members are concerned about the resource challenges local governmental bodies face. HB 49 contains safeguards to achieve this, but we ask that you perform due diligence to ensure this will be the outcome.

Thank you, as always, for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis R. Hetzel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dennis" and last name "Hetzel" clearly legible.

Dennis Hetzel
President & Executive Director
Ohio News Media Association

cc: ONMA Executive & Government Relations committees
Greg Saul, Ohio Municipal Tax Reform Coalition
Dan Jones, Capitol Consulting