

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Scherer and Ways and Means Committee Members,

I am writing in support of House Bill 488. The changes proposed in this bill will provide Ohio voters clarification on the dollar cost of a levy. Today, for a voter to determine the cost of a levy to them, the voter needs to perform multiple calculations to determine a levy's dollar cost. The proposed language changes will give the voter an easy way to determine the cost of the levy to them and their family. This update will be very beneficial to the voter.

Taking the time to add clarification and transparency to existing laws like being done in this bill should be regularly pursued and applauded. About 5 years ago, I helped lead an effort to get a citizen led tax reduction petition issue on the ballot. While the language of the law would lead one to believe we had followed the letter of the law and done our job properly, others interpreted the issue differently and rejected the will of over 5,000 voters. I know full well the value you are delivering to Ohioans by providing clear and defined laws like being done in H.B. 488.

Thank you for taking the time to clarify and simplify the language of Ohio's tax laws. I ask all members of this committee to vote this bill out of committee for a full House vote. I also ask that you continue to look for ways to clarify, simplify and improve our existing laws.

I do plan to be in attendance to provide verbal testimony as well.

Thank You,

Jim Burgess
Columbus, OH