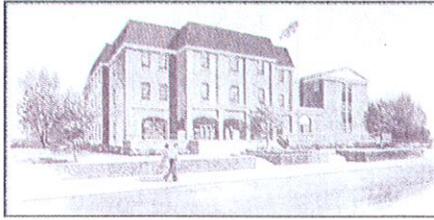


Gallia County Commissioners

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*Harold G. Montgomery, President
David K. Smith, Vice-President
Brent Saunders, Commissioner*

*Office Staff:
Karen Sprague, County Administrator
Anette L. Brown, Clerk to the Board
Connie Johnson, Assistant Clerk*

Date: June 14, 2017

To: Members of the Ohio Senate Finance Committee
From: Name – Title
Re: Substitute HB 49 – State Biennial Budget

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell and members of the Finance Committee, my name is Harold Montgomery, President of the Gallia County Board of Commissioners. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today regarding some critical issues contained in Sub House Bill 49 which impact county government.

For Gallia County, the current proposal regarding the elimination of the MCO sales tax will result in a 12% reduction in sales tax revenue which equates to \$600,000 annually. Gallia County's General Fund depends heavily on sales tax revenue with sales tax making up 43% of the General Fund annual revenue (attached Exhibit A – 2016 County General Fund Receipts chart). As well, our reliance on sales tax revenue has increased due to the decrease of all other revenue streams such as Local Government Funds where Gallia County receives the minimum allowance of \$715,000 with County General receiving only \$315,000 or 42% of the total.

A reduction in sales tax will also have severe impact on our safety services such as the EMS Dept. with sales tax making up 41% of EMS annual revenue and our 911 Dept. with sales tax making up 100% of 911 annual revenue.

The Gallia County Sheriff's Dept. receives 32% of the County General Fund budget, therefore any reductions will have a major impact to this department (attached Exhibit D – FY 2017 County General Budget chart). Previous state revenue reductions resulted in 14% across the board budget cuts to all County General funded departments in FY 2012. The impact of this cut resulted in layoff of all Sheriff Dept. investigators and several road deputies. Gallia County was finally able in 2016 to reinstate all 3 Sheriff Investigators and road deputies. A 12% reduction in sales tax will have nearly the same effect as in 2012.

A reduction of sales tax will have further adverse impacts to non-mandated agencies such as:

- Gallia County Extension Office who serves 2,671 4-H youth annually and receives 70% of their funding from the County General Fund (attached Exhibits B – Letter from Gallia County Extension Office)
- Gallia County Soil & Water Office whose programs served 7,600 residents in 2016 and receives 56% of their funding from the County General Fund (attached Exhibits C – Letter from Gallia County Soil & Water Office).
- These are matching funds so the loss of local funds will further compound the impact.

Gallia County is one of the southernmost counties in the state being a part of Appalachia and lying along the Ohio River. Counties from different areas of the states may have different issues plaguing their operations, however one thing every county will have in common is the loss of

sales tax revenue if the counties are not made whole. Gallia County wants to offer our support to Senator Dolan's amendment to address the Medicaid MCO sales tax revenue shortfall.

We also recognize that this issue is just one of the extreme challenges you have faced in this budget and we are appreciative of the efforts you have taken to prioritize several key budget priorities of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) in this sub-bill, including:

The effects of the opiate epidemic

On county jails - CCAO, the Buckeye Sheriffs Association and other interested parties outlined a plan that would assist county jails in managing and caring for the mentally ill and addicted population.

- \$15 M for crisis stabilization centers, which allocated \$6 M for substance abuse centers and \$9 M for mental health centers.
- \$12 M to ADAMH Boards to help provide direct treatment and counseling services in the county jail.
- \$4 M for psychotropic drug reimbursement to the jails.

The House included funding for the substance abuse and mental health stabilization centers and the ADAMH Boards. The Senate version of HB 49 includes funding for the psychotropic drugs and the substance abuse centers, but did not maintain funding for mental health centers or ADAMH Boards. CCAO appreciates the additional funding of psychotropic drugs and supports the replacement of funding for the other two programs.

On child protection – The House allocated \$15 M per year of new GRF to children services agencies to help counties care for children affected by the opiate epidemic. The Senate version of HB 49 switches that investment from GRF to TANF. This will hinder the use of these dollars and CCAO will follow up with you on the ramifications of this change.

Indigent defense reimbursement

The Senate maintained the House provisions including reimbursement to the counties for 100% of the costs for providing counsel in capital cases and the funding level that should provide a reimbursement rate of approximately 45% for general reimbursement. We ask that the Senate provide additional funding to replace the \$6.5 million in non-GRF funding that will now be lost for reimbursement because the percentage share of the Indigent Defense Support Fund which had been allocated to reimbursement has been decreased by 5% and diverted to supporting the operating budget of the State Public Defender Commission.

Outlining a state/county partnership to purchase voting equipment

The Senate maintained provisions from the House passed version of HB 49 regarding voting equipment. CCAO appreciates these provisions and respectfully requests the senate add some clarity to reflect that the \$250,000 cap only applies to the initial \$1 M appropriated in the bill as well as to increase the proposed partnership ratio between the state and counties to better reflect the partnership with electronic poll books.

Again, thank you for allowing me to speak today. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Exhibit A - 2016 County General Fund Receipts chart

COUNTY GENERAL RECEIPTS - 2016

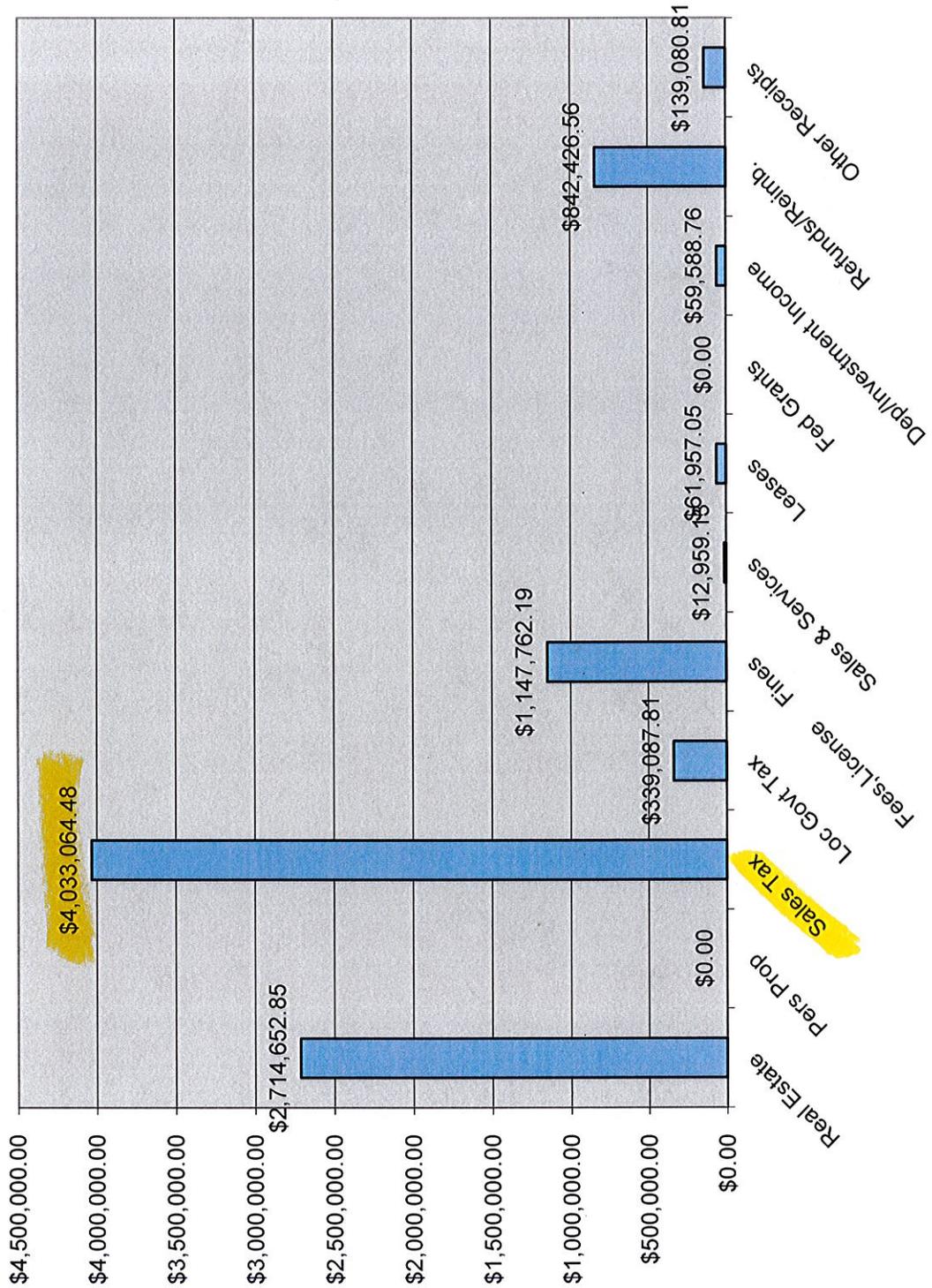




Exhibit B - Letter from Gallia
County Extension Office

June 9, 2017

Effects of county funding loss on Gallia County Extension

To whom it may concern,

I have been asked to provide a letter regarding the value of Extension programs within our county; this I find to be both an easy and impossible task, for how do I put a price on youth development, community education and ensuring safe practices to protect our environment? Extension programs have been proven to improve the economic and social well-beings of the families, communities and the businesses we serve. Below I will outline the services provided by the Gallia County Extension office for 2016 to present.

The 4-H Youth Development program- provides children ages 5-18 with educational programs to explore careers, develop leadership, citizenship and life skills through club activities, community service, project development and hands on educational programming.

- **Cloverbud (grades K-2) Education** - As a result of plummeting science and math scores on our local school system report card, the Gallia County 4-H staff developed a new program in 2016, entitled Cloverbud Investigators. This program is funded through grant dollars and was created to introduce children in grades K-2 to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) based activities. To date 18 different experientially based science lessons have been created, that have been shared locally in both school districts, in all forty four 4-H clubs in the county and across the state of Ohio. In addition, Extension staff have presented these lessons to over 500 children in the Gallia County school systems.
- **CARTEENS-** CARTEENS is a teen facilitated driver's safety program, provided to teens who have received their first driving offense. The program is a partnership with the Ohio Highway Patrol and the Gallia County Juvenile court system. According to Ohio Highway Patrol, Ohio teen drivers are involved in three times as many fatal crashes as all other drivers. Drivers ages 15 to 18 have had more than 1000 fatalities in the past 10 years, with 1/3 of these happening in rural communities. The current Gallia County CARTEENS program was established in 2005. Since that time 75 programs have been offered to over 1,875 Gallia County Teen Drivers. Evaluation data collected on this program in 2016 showed positive changes in behavior for all 17 data collection questions, with the greatest change being that 55% of participants stating they would not engage in distracted driving behavior in the future.
- **Gallia County Teen Leaders** – This is a 4-H program presented by 4-H staff for teens ages 13–18. In 2016, thirty nine teens enrolled in at least one leadership program, and over 2,500 service hours were logged for these teens. Programs included: camp counseling, CARTEENS, Quality Assurance training and various community service projects. Teens involved in these programs received training opportunities in: CPR and First Aid, recognizing and preventing child abuse, risk

BUT FOR OHIO STATE



management, program planning, leadership development and various workforce skill development opportunities including: teaching, public speaking, time management and communication skill development. As a result of their work ethic, service to the 4-H program and leadership skills, eighteen 2017 graduating 4-H seniors received \$29,000 in 4-H college scholarships! These scholarships are a direct result of community partnerships and local donor support. These donors believe in the positive outcomes teen have when they participate in the Gallia County 4-H program.

- **Community Clubs-** Gallia County has forty four local community clubs with a membership of 877 members. These 877 members have enlisted in 2,009 4-H projects. Of these members, 48% are non-rural families who find the benefits of being in 4-H extend beyond the farm and traditional agricultural education. Leading these community clubs, are 134 trained adult club advisors. Additionally, we have 258 specialty volunteers who give of their time to ensure that the 4-H program in Gallia County remains strong. Gallia County 4-H is the largest extracurricular youth program offered in the county, greatly surpassing Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and various other youth organizations.
- **Community Service Projects** – All forty four clubs are required to do at least one Community Service Project. In 2016, our local 4-H Dog Club formed the “Pennies for Protection” community service project. With support from the community and other 4-H clubs they raised over \$2,500 to purchase three protective vests for our Gallia County K-9 officers. In 2017, our five horse clubs have banded together to raise money to help the fairground re-location project. Their “Penny Wars” project is collecting donations to support the building of a new barn and show ring at the new “safer” fairgrounds location. The current fairgrounds are located in a floodplain and are at great risk for flash flooding putting both humans and animals at risk.
- **School Enrichment and After School Programming** – Gallia County 4-H provides educational program to all three school systems in the county. In 2016, 856 non-duplicated youth took part in these programs, 474 of these participants were not enrolled in a traditional 4-H club.
- **4-H Camping program-** Gallia County 4-H provides both residential and non-residential 4-H camping programs. Youth do not have to be enrolled in 4-H to attend camp. In 2016, 367 Gallia County youth participated in overnight camps, with an additional 77 participating in day camps. Through local donations and fund raisers Gallia County provides \$2,400 in camp scholarships for children to attend camp each year.
- **Total youth participating in a 2016 4-H event was 2,671-** Gallia County 4-H continues to reach out to the nontraditional audiences with 53% of these participants being female and 67% being non-rural youth.
- **Community partnerships:** the loss of 4-H programming would affect the following community partnerships that have been developed by our clubs and our county 4-H office: Gallia County Conservation Club, the Ohio Valley Bank scholarship program, Gallia County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Bossard Memorial Library, the Gallia County Sheriff’s office, the Gallia County Junior Fair, the Gallia County Farm Bureau, the Gallia County Dog Shelter, Gallipolis in Bloom, the Gallia County Snack Pack program, Vinton Baptist Food Bank, Second Harvest Food Bank, Gallipolis Food Pantries, Gallia County Department of Job and Family Services, Gallia County Local Schools, Gallia County City Schools, The University of Rio Grande, Gallia County Post of the Ohio Highway patrol, Gallipolis FFA, River Valley FFA, South Gallia FFA, Buckeye Hills FFA, Buckeye Hills Career Center,



Guiding Hands School, Gallipolis in Lights, the Ohio River Sweep, the Bob Evans Farm Festival, the Gallia County Emancipation Proclamation Celebration, the Chautauqua, Aubra's Gift of Hope, Canter's Cave 4-H Camp, the Good Samaritan Shoebox program for Gallia County, the American Cancer Association, Gallipolis Veterans Association, Coaches Place Homeless Shelter, the local senior care centers, and many more local businesses which are supported through the purchases and supply needs of our 4-H livestock projects. 4-H is a large part of our community and its loss would be felt across the county.

OSU Extension Agricultural and Natural Resource program - provides Gallia County Residents with research based education and programming to improve everything from backyard gardening to large scale agricultural productions. The following is a list of ANR programs offered in 2016 to present.

- **2016 & 2017 Beef School-** As a member of our OSU Extension Beef Team Gallia County ANR Educator Jeff Moore serves as an expert in: Cow-Calf Management, Receiving, Nutrition, Forages, and Beef Cattle Management. This team, comprised of twenty one educators from around the state, is committed to providing the most relevant beef cattle information available to Ohio cattlemen. They provide both on-line and personal education classes on information that aid in making management decisions, and maintaining an efficient and profitable beef enterprise. In 2016, 225 producers attended the Forage and Beef Field Clinic held at the Jackson Research farm and 24 participated in the Gallia County Beef School presentations.
- **2016-& 2017 Pesticide testing and recertification** – The Ohio Pesticide Safety Education Program provides training, education, and outreach to pesticide applicators about the safe, proper, and legal use of pesticides. The program works with farmers, businesses, and public agencies to protect human health and the environment and serves as a critical part of job training and business growth in Ohio. Gallia County Extension provides these classes to individuals seeking commercial applicators or private applicator certification. Educational classes are based on the latest research in pesticide application and safety. Ninety four producers were certified in 2016.
- **2017 FACT Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training** – Fertilizer Applicator training is required certification for anyone applying commercial fertilizer on more than 50 acres where crops are grown. This is an effort to ensure proper use of fertilizers and protect our water supplies. OSU Extension has trained more than 10,000 Ohio farmers on best practices to apply fertilizer and these classes are offered right here in Gallia County by the Gallia County OSU Extension office. Sixty three producers were certified in 2016 & 2017.
- **2017 Whole Farm Revenue Protection-** Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) provides a risk management safety net for all commodities on the farm under one insurance policy and is available in all counties nationwide. This insurance plan is tailored for any farm with up to \$8.5 million in insured revenue, including farms with specialty or organic commodities (both crops and livestock), or those marketing to local, regional, farm-identity preserved, specialty, or direct markets. The Gallia County Extension office offered classes to help local farms understand and take advantage of this program.
- **2017 Grain Marketing Programs** – a set of six programs were held to help local grain producers in Gallia County learn how to maximize their profits.



- **2016 & 2017 Tobacco Good Agricultural practices** – OSU Extension provided educational classes on the new laws and regulations for production and marketing tobacco. GAP certification is required for individuals who market tobacco and other crops. Sixty producers were certified in 2016.
- **Additional Education Outreach** – Additional educational programs are provided to Gallia County residents through monthly appearances on the WSAZ John Mara show, through local partnerships like the Gallia County Farm City Day, a partnership with the Gallia County Conservation District, through programs with the local Gallia County Cattlemen’s Association, the Gallia County Farm Bureau, the Gallia County Pride in Tobacco Association and partnerships with local Agriculture businesses.
- **Home Horticulture and Pest Control** – An average of 30 call-in and 10 walk-in clients are assisted weekly, with home horticulture and pest identification and control questions.
- **Soil Sampling Services** – Gallia County Extension provides soil sample services to residents and businesses in Gallia County. These tests are valuable to both farmers and home gardeners to increase yields and economic values of crop and hay fields. Averages of 130 tests are done each year.
- **Landowner Visits** – The ANR Educator does an average of one landowner visit per week. These visits assist with diagnoses of livestock, crop or horticulture issues faced by the residents of Gallia County.

Family and Consumer Science – While Gallia County does not have a Family Consumer Science Educator located in the county, limited programs and services are still provided. These services include programs that improve the lives of families through education in healthier lifestyles, improved parenting, food safety and financial management.

- **2016 & 2017 Food Preservation Programs** - three food preservation clinics were held in Gallia County at no cost to participants. Participants learned about food safety, canning, and freezing of garden crops with sixty two residents participated.
- **Gallia County Homemakers** – Gallia County Extension host a monthly Gallia County Homemakers group. This group is open to any adult resident in Gallia County who would like to learn more about food, nutrition, sewing, gardening and craft making. On average the group consists of 15-20 senior ladies, who use this event as a means of social interaction and education. Many of their programs are conducted by or arranged by the Extension staff, including their annual banquet gatherings.
- **Gallia County Extension participates in many community health fairs** – in 2016 we provided food and nutrition material to over 630 people attending three different health fairs.
- **SNAP Ed**- May 30th, a new part time SNAP Ed. Program Assistant, was hired to provide food and nutrition program to the residents of Gallia County. This is a grant funded position and is at no cost to the county.

Community Development – While Gallia County does not have a Community Development Educator located in the county, limited programs and services are still provided. The Community Development program provides leadership programs and works to improve the basic infrastructure of the county. Educators within Gallia County Extension currently set on the ESC board, local afterschool community boards, attend monthly Gallia County Fair Board meeting, assist with the Gallia County Fairground re-location efforts, work with the



Gallia County Farm Bureau, and partner with the Gallia County Job and Family Services on various efforts.

If Local Funding was Lost - The Extension Service is a partnership between The Ohio State University as a land-grant university, United States Department of Agriculture and the Gallia County Commissioners. However, 70% of our current budget comes from county funding, the remaining 30% comes from Educator cost share from OSU Extension at the state level and from grants written and received through the efforts of the local office. Without local funding, many of the programs mentioned previous, will cease to exist in Gallia County. 4-H membership in the county will end, and the citizens of Gallia County will lose their direct access to research – based educational programming through the OSU Extension and The Ohio State University.

Sincerely,

Tracy Winters,
Gallia County Extension Educator, Extension County Director
4-H Youth Development



Gallia Soil & Water Conservation District

111 Jackson Pike, Suite 1569 · Gallipolis, OH 45631 – Phone: (740) 446-6173

Dear County Commissioners,

I would like to start off by thanking you for the support you have always shown to our District and agriculture in Gallia County. Through the county's funding, along with the state match we receive, our office has done an excellent job implementing conservation in Gallia County.

With the potential loss of revenue each county in Ohio may receive this upcoming fiscal year, I know county commissioners across the state will have tough budgetary decisions they may have to make. I would like to stress the importance that our District has for Gallia County and why the funding we receive from the county and state match on those local dollars is so critical.

Our office delivers the conservation programs contained within the federal Farm Bill through our partnership with USDA. With serious declines in staffing, USDA relies on our District to deliver the conservation workload. Cost share programs for landowners have increased and in order to get these programs implemented, our District technician is very necessary. Federal program dollars continue to grow in an effort to address water quality issues and conservation needs. These programs and funding are vital in getting conservation practices installed/implemented for our county's agricultural producers. The loss of any county appropriations can potentially lead to a domino effect, impacting federal funding, which in turn impacts projects and programs available to address resource challenges (and stimulate our economy). Through our partnership with USDA we helped bring in \$740,617.08 dollars for Gallia County producers from 2013 to 2016. These federal dollars would not have been brought in to the county without our District. Also, without these cost share conservation programs, our county producers would have had a difficult time implementing these on their own. Since agriculture is a very important part of our economy, the programs and the work our office does is crucial. We also partner with groups like Farm Bureau, Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), Raccoon Creek Partnership, Division of Wildlife, Gallia County Conservation Club, environmental organizations, and more. These groups are relying on Gallia SWCD as the "boots on the ground" serving landowners, developers, and more to get conservation implemented in Gallia County.

We also have 2 no till drills available to rent. These seed drills are provided at a very low cost to our county (and surrounding county's) residents to encourage the conservation practice of no till seeding of crops and hay/pasture fields. With the rising costs to purchase their own equipment, this is a viable alternative to these producers who may not have the financial ability to purchase one of their own. From 2012 to 2016, county and area producers utilized our drills to plant

4,419.9 acres of no till. No till seeding is a best management practice that assists in federal, state, and local water quality improvement efforts. These no till drills also reach county residents who want to install food plots for wildlife, schools who want to re-seed their sports fields, and the local golf course to re-seed their fairways.

Our office is also tasked with enforcing the Agricultural Pollution Abatement regulations for agriculture and silviculture pollution. The enforcement of these regulations, as dictated by the Ohio Revised Code, is an important method of maintaining/improving water quality within our county. It also has the benefit of improving the environmental habitats for wildlife and increases the quality of life for all of our county residents.

Gallia SWCD is also charged with floodplain administration. This oversees all floodplain development for the unincorporated areas of Gallia County. The administration of this program is extremely critical to the health and welfare of our county's residents. In the event of a flooding disaster, proper enforcement of these regulations will save lives. The oversight of the program keeps the county within good standing under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). If the county were to fall out of good standing with the NFIP, the purchase of flood insurance would be difficult if not impossible to purchase for structures in the county. This could have a trickledown effect on FDIC insured bank loans and/or mortgages: as the unavailability of flood insurance will prevent the lending institutions from issuing these loans/mortgages. Since Gallia County is bordered by the Ohio River and has 7 major watersheds within, this could potentially be an economic disaster. In the event of flooding, it could potentially affect any FEMA emergency assistance dollars as well.

Our office conducts many educational programs from pre-school aged children to adults. These programs range from teaching students the importance of soil conservation, wildlife, pollinators, water conservation, drinking/waste water, ground water, forestry, nutrient application/retention, and Farm City Day. In 2016, our office reached approximately 7,586 county residents. These programs are critical in educating the public on why it's important to conserve our natural resources and the role agriculture plays in our society and economy. These educational efforts also assist residents in identifying, treating, and caring for tree diseases, pond algae, and noxious/invasive plant and tree species. We also assist in human-wildlife conflicts, creek erosion issues, and land slips. We also help support the Gallia County 4-H program and Gallia County Junior Fair by sponsoring the Livestock Skill-A-Thon, 4-H project books, and judge 4-H projects. Our office also hosts Recycle Day, an event that is free to all county residents. From 2012 to 2017, our office has collected 98,417 lbs. of electronics, 18,883 lbs. of paper, and 7,477 fluorescent lightbulbs that was recycled. This event keeps these recyclable items out of our landfills or illegal dump sites.

In conclusion, there are many benefits our District provides to the county's agriculture, environment, and economy. The funding we receive through the county and our state match provides the most economical method of implementing conservation efforts in Gallia County. Our partnership with USDA also brings in needed federal programs and dollars to install

conservation practices which further reinforces the county's strong agricultural economy and community. Without our District (and the local funding we receive from the County Commissioners), the county's residents will be adversely affected through the loss of the aforementioned services.

Sincerely,

Nicholas D. Mills, CFM
District Program Administrator
Gallia Soil and Water Conservation District

