

March 28, 2017

The Honorable Joe Uecker
Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Uecker,

My name is Andrew Glenn, I am a Trustee in Springfield Township (Lucas County), and I am writing you to express my support for SB 43.

Springfield Township is the second largest township in Lucas County with a population of approximately 25,000 residents. I often receive compliments from local contractors, businesses and residents for how helpful and friendly our township employees are. We have a very business friendly approach in our township and our staff is trained to find solutions to problems, not just say "no", or "this does not fit within our zoning code".

The problem comes in when we have to send people from our zoning office to the Lucas County Building Department to obtain a building permit. The building department in Lucas County treats people exactly opposite from how they are treated in our office. Some of the most frequent complaints I hear include: "They are rude."; "They never return phone calls."; "I have been trying to get my plans approved for over 3 months."; "It takes too long to get an inspection."; and "The inspectors are trying to enforce rules that are not even in the code."

Unfortunately for us, since the county has a building department we have no option to try to find a solution to this problem for our residents and business owners. SB 43 would give us that option.

Several cities and villages in Lucas County have exercised their option to get away from the Lucas County Building Department by either creating their own department, or contracting with another department for permitting and inspections within their jurisdictions. It makes perfect sense to give townships that same option.

Further, another benefit of SB 43 would actually be to improve the level of customer service within the county building departments through competition. If the counties realize that they no longer have a captive customer base in the townships, the smart counties will start improving the service they are providing so there is no reason for townships to look elsewhere. Townships would have the ability to approach the county and express concerns with how the Building Departments are being operated, and request changes.

Our country is built upon the idea that competition is good and monopolies are bad; please take away the monopolies that counties in Ohio currently have on Building Departments.

Andrew Glenn
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