



**Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs Committee**  
**November 27, 2018**  
**Written Testimony**  
**Sub. HB 500 Township Law Changes**

Good morning Chairman Uecker, members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs Committee. On behalf of the Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships (CLOUT), thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Sub. House Bill 500.

The Executive Committee of CLOUT maintains a list of legislative priorities that are agreed upon each General Assembly period by our membership and important to the 1,308 Townships in Ohio. Generally speaking these become priorities as a result of the experiences of our membership and the other Townships. Sub. House Bill 500 addresses two of those priorities that directly impact CLOUT Townships today.

Sub. HB 500 modifies the **Obligations Incurred Threshold (R.C. §507.11)** that a township employee or official could incur from \$2,500 up to \$10,000 as authorized by the Township Board of Trustees. In larger Townships with budgets over \$5,000,000, the restraint of a \$2,500 cap can slow the ability for the organization to react to needs in a timely manner. This change would allow, but not require, the Board of Trustees to authorize higher spending limits for officials in their community. Many of the expenditures that this will address have increased over the years from under the \$2,500 threshold to well above it today.

The second priority for CLOUT addressed in Sub. HB 500 is a modification regarding the **Approval of a Township Road Name Change (R.C. §5541.04)**. This modification would require to the County Commissioners to act upon a request for a road name change from the Township within 60 days. If the county does not act within the 60-day period, the name shall be changed.

While the above items are CLOUT legislative priorities, there are many other provisions included in Sub. HB 500 which CLOUT supports. Specifically, we support the following: the elimination of the requirement that a limited home rule township submit proposed zoning resolutions or amendments to the county or regional planning commission; the elimination of the acreage requirement for the creation of a new community authority in a township; required approval of the township when the board of county commissioners votes to vacate a township road; and the creation of a new levy option for permanent improvements and general infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, the CLOUT Executive Committee endorses Sub. House Bill 500 in its current form and respectfully urges your support of the measure.

***2018-2019 CLOUT Executive Committee***

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