



**Ohio Senate  
District 17**

**Bob Peterson  
President Pro Tempore**

1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 466-8156

**Committees:**

Rules and Reference, Vice Chair  
Agriculture  
Finance General Government and Agency  
Review Subcommittee  
Government Oversight and Reform  
Local Government, Public Safety, and  
Veteran's Affairs  
Ways and Means

**Senate Bill 252, Sponsor Testimony  
Senate Ways and Means Committee**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for giving me the opportunity to speak to Senate Bill 252.

When I served as a County Commissioner, it was (and still is) common practice for a County Commissioner to serve on the local Convention and Visitor's Bureau's board, along with a variety of other boards in their capacity as County Commissioner. These opportunities provided Commissioners not only with a better understanding of the challenges facing the CVB board, but it also provided the opportunity to better coordinate efforts in visitor entertainment and attraction. In our small, rural county, this involvement helped focus our limited resources on opportunities that had the most potential. Our service on these boards allowed the county to better maximize the economic opportunities in the most fiscally responsible way by leveraging multiple agencies and perspectives on the best investment.

In recent months, it was brought to my attention that the Ohio Revised Code does not expressly allow this dual service. Senate Bill 252 clarifies this discrepancy by specifically allowing local elected officials or their designee to sit on the board of their local Convention and Visitor's Bureau. This is common practice in counties across this state. Not only does this allow for better coordination, but in many more rural parts of our state, it provides much needed flexibility in areas where there may not be as many people able to serve. This is a good government proposal that recognizes current practice and is supported and encouraged by the Convention and Visitor's Bureau and the County Commissioner Association.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.