

**43rd Ohio House District**

Serving Preble and Western  
Montgomery County

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**J. Todd Smith**  
State Representative

**Committees**

Vice Chairman – Agriculture and  
Rural Development

Criminal Justice

Primary and Secondary Education

State and Local Government

Subcommittee on Criminal Sentencing

Commission on Minority Health

Commission on Fatherhood

**Sponsor Testimony for H.B. 480**

Chairs Oelslager and Callendar, Vice-Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Cera, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 480 alongside my esteemed colleague Representative Plummer.

Memorial Day 2019 was a dark day for Ohioans when 20 separate tornadoes hit our state within a 24-hour period. The districts in Montgomery County represented by Phil and I were some of the hardest hit areas in the state. The National Weather Service after investigations reported that the sustained wind speed in the tornadoes were between 140 or 150 miles per hour and some of them contained multiple vortices. In Montgomery County there were over 4,500 properties affected being either totally destroyed or damaged. The amount in property damage was an estimated \$1 billion. As a result, the school districts in Montgomery County lost significant property tax revenue in 2019 and had to make some major budget cuts.

Now in 2020, because of the pandemic, our local schools have had to make additional adjustments and cuts. I think I speak for Representative Plummer as well when I say that we don't want to see the students and teachers in our local districts fall behind the rest of their fellow Ohioans because their schools were not able to attain the funding needed to continue to operate through these times of crisis.

That is why we are here today submitting House Bill 480. This proposed legislation would appropriate \$1,000,000 from the Controlling Board's Emergency Purposes Fund already set-aside for emergencies in last year's operating budget. The funds would be transferred to the Ohio Department of Education's Foundation Fund non-lottery line item and earmarked in such a way to make them available for these schools in our districts.

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We have included a document featuring a chart from the Montgomery County Auditor's November 2019 report showing how much each school district lost in tax revenue.

Thank you so much for your time and thoughtful consideration. If you have any questions at this time, Representative Plummer and I will do our best to answer them.