

Fiscal Officer Cynthia Hunter, Village of Adena

Chairman Wiggins, Ranking Member Kelly and Members of the Committee

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on House Bill 450 today. House Bill 450, if created, will allow for a layer of protection for the outgoing and incoming local government fiscal officers as well as provide more transparency of local government to the taxpayer.

As a new incoming fiscal officer, and not familiar with all of the fiduciary responsibilities that come with the territory. I would have benefited greatly by having a Certificate of Transition that would be created with House Bill 450.

Upon taking office, I began my term with absolutely no direction. In my case, I confronted a fiscal position that provided no schedules, inventories, accurate or complete records to follow to be able to responsibly carry out my duties. There was no shared information, no direction, but with the help of several Auditors' offices, I have been able to get answers and the direction that would be provided with the passage of House Bill 450.

In addition to a Certificate of Transition, I believe there needs to be a periodic Certificate completed to ensure fiscal officers are fulfilling the responsibilities of the office. When the time comes for a handoff, there would be some assurance that the new fiscal officer would be moving forward with the duties of the office and not completing the outgoing fiscal officer's workload which is what I encountered.

I am sure that there are things I don't know that I don't know. The Certificate of Transition would eliminate the guessing.

House Bill 450 will eliminate the problems I encountered and provide a smooth transition that all new fiscal officers deserve.