

SB 333 Testimony-September 1, 2020-Gary D. Woodward

Chairman Hoagland, and members of the Ohio Senate Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit this written testimony regarding my support of Senate Bill 333. I am Gary Woodward, Morgan County Auditor, I have served in this capacity for 34 years.

The recent sales of American Electric Power acreage to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources has a tremendous impact on the tax base of Morgan County. The overall sales resulted in a loss of 7.29% of valuation in Class I properties for Morgan County, in tax dollars, this amounts to \$56,725.00 to the General Fund alone. Bristol Township located in Morgan County will lose 33% of its real estate taxes to the General Fund and Road & Bridge Fund. As you are well aware, working already with tight budgets, this will have devastating effects on the local subdivisions. Also, with the increase of people visiting the Jesse Owens Park and surrounding acreage owned by ODNR, it will put a heavier burden on Law Enforcement, Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

ODNR Officials stated the Park will increase local economy and increased sale of hunting licenses, as you can see, this will not make up for the loss of real estate tax revenue.

Thank-you for your time and consideration in supporting SB 333.

Gary D. Woodward

Morgan County Auditor



AGRICULTURE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date Aug 31-2020

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Organization Representing: Morgan County Auditor

Testifying on Bill Number: 333

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: _____
