



Board of Mahoning County Commissioners

21 West Boardman Street, Suite 200 Youngstown, OH 44503 ~ Phone: (330) 740-2130/Fax: (330) 740-2006

County Commissioners

David C. Ditzler • Carol Rimedio-Righetti • Anthony T. Traficanti

Clerk of the Board

Nancy M. Laboy

December 3, 2020

Chairman Hoagland

Vice Chair Schaffer

Ranking Member O'Brien

Members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee:

We, the Board of Mahoning County Commissioners, contact you to voice our opposition to the inclusion of Section 6119.092 in HB 665.

The ABC Water and Stormwater District was initiated in an attempt to try and alleviate the infrastructure deficiencies in the three largest townships in Mahoning County contiguous to each other as they faced flooding concerns. Numerous times these communities have been faced with in structure devastation to residents and businesses alike from the increasing number of 100 year rains that we continue to face in Mahoning County. In several of these events we have faced in the past five years, FEMA has been called in to try and assist in the devastation these rains have created. In all occasions FEMA funding was not authorized for infrastructure assistance because it did not reach the levels necessary to secure federal dollars. But tell that to the residents whose homes have been destroyed and uninhabitable because of the conditions.

All local political subdivisions townships, cities, villages, and the county have faced the same annual reductions in funding either from the state or federal government. The loss of local government funds, tangible personal property tax, CAT tax, inheritance tax, MCO funds, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funds have all taken their toll on local communities' ability to balance their budgets, let alone improve their infrastructure. We can tell you from the Mahoning County standpoint that these reductions in funding to Mahoning County have amounted to more than \$10 million in annual losses as it relates to a \$67 million budget. The political subdivisions within the county have seen more devastating percentages reduced from their budgets.

In an effort to try and eliminate or at least minimize the flooding concerns regionalization efforts were made by three of the largest townships in the county as well as the state to form the ABC Water and Stormwater District. This effort was to try and help fund the efforts to reduce the in-structure flooding that is being faced in these communities. In doing so all properties within the district are treated equally and assessed on the same formula. No property is exempted, not a school, a church, a 501-C3, everyone pays their fair share of the utility service fees being collected, to assist the communities in the upgrades necessary to eliminate the in structure flooding problems.

The Canfield Fairgrounds property, the largest single piece of property in the district that impacts the district more than any other single piece of property within the ABC Water and Stormwater District, above all, should not be omitted from being part of the solution that contributes to help improve the infrastructure within the district. The specifics are very well stated in the letter addressed to this committee by the board members of the ABC Water and Stormwater District.

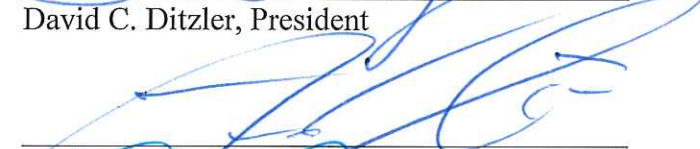
In closing, the Board of Mahoning County Commissioners ask that you eliminate section 6119.092 in HB 665. This is an extremely divisive piece of legislation for Mahoning County as a whole in our efforts to address the needs and concerns equally of the residents of Mahoning County.

Respectfully Requested,

BOARD OF MAHONING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



David C. Ditzler, President



Anthony T. Traficanti, Vice-President



Carol Rimedio-Righetti, Commissioner