	<p>GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY REVIEW COMMITTEE</p>
<p>Witness Form</p>	

Today's Date May 14, 2020

Name: Philip H. Wagner & Todd Griffith

Address: 6539 Summit Road SW

Pataskala, OH 43062

Telephone: 740-927-6926

Organization Representing: Licking Heights Local School District

Testifying on Bill Number: 248

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: _____

LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS

6539 Summit Rd. SW, Pataskala, OH 43062

p. (740) 927-6926 | f. (740) 927-9043

May 13, 2020

Senator Jay Hottinger
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: SB 248

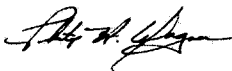
Dear Senator Hottinger:

We are writing today in support of SB 248 for the extension of the storm shelter moratorium for new school construction. As you are aware, districts have just suffered an unforeseen cut to annual state funding and are expecting more. We cannot afford another costly, overly burdensome and unreasonable unfunded mandate when resources are already scarce. School district monies could be better utilized and prioritized to meet the immediate needs of student well-being.

When this legislation was introduced in 2017, the costs of the additional requirements were astronomical. It was forecasted that imposing the construction of a storm shelter with no financial relief would have caused a \$500,000 projected shortfall to our co-funded building project. In a school district that is already severely underfunded, the ramifications of a mandate such as this are immense.

Ohio's investment in educating students and student safety would be better made elsewhere, in relation to supporting students and mitigating risks. Neighboring states, like Indiana and Michigan, do not have such a requirement. We urge you to extend the storm shelter moratorium.

Sincerely,



Philip H. Wagner, Ph.D.
Superintendent Licking Heights LSD



Todd Griffith
Treasurer, Licking Heights LSD

LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS

6539 Summit Rd. SW, Pataskala, OH 43062

p. (740) 927-6926 | f. (740) 927-9043

May 13, 2020

Senator Kirk Schuring
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
2nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: SB 248

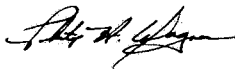
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Philip H. Wagner, Ph.D
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