



Representatives Tom Brinkman Jr. and Brigid Kelly

Chairman Jordan, Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Crossman, and my colleagues on the Financial Institutions Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 682 on behalf of myself and Representative Brigid Kelly.

This bill came about when Columbia Township officials reached out to us about the Little Miami Joint Fire District that they share with the village of Fairfax in Hamilton County. The Little Miami Joint Fire District is underfunded while carrying a debt of \$5.5 million with an interest rate of 6.5%. In spirit of avoiding burdening the community with a tax increase, I am here today asking you to consider changing the law to allow Columbia Township and Fairfax to retire the debt and buy the fire station using funds they have in excess from other taxes.

Avoiding the burden of taxing our constituents with yet another levy while so many are feeling the sting of our current economy, is not just an act of good faith. It's a no brainer. The funds are there to cover the cost and it's a matter of allowing them to harmlessly do so. I ask that you consider what you would do in our shoes if it were to happen in your district. Again, I urge the favorable consideration of HB 682 during future hearings. Thank you for giving the opportunity to speak on behalf of myself and Representative Kelly. I would be glad to answer any questions you may have.