

Testimony of Peter J Kienle, Owner, Kienle Communications, 8828 Linksway Dr, Powell, Ohio 43065

Re: Ohio HCR No. 28

House Resolution to urge the NCAA to restore the vacated wins and records from the 2010 OSU football season

My name is Pete Kienle. I am a resident of Powell and have lived in Central Ohio most of my life. I am a proud graduate of the OSU School of Business with a BSBA in 1972 and an MBA in 1977. While in grade school, I became a serious follower of OSU football, attended many games while a College student and became active in the Alumni Association after graduation. In 2006, I moved to the Hampton Roads area and found they had no OSU Alumni Club, amazing since they were an area with 1.7 million people, about the same size as Central Ohio. I filed the papers and started the Club that today has a very active membership, with activities including raising money for OSU scholarships and game watches every Saturday during the football season.

There are 580,000 OSU grads around the world, with 285,000 here in Ohio. If our Ohio grads were a city in Ohio, they would be the 5th largest city. Knowing Buckeye football fans, my guess is that there are over a million fans in the world.

I now serve as the Vice President of the OSU Alumni Club of Franklin County. We have over 600 members on our roster and are one of the largest Clubs—there are over 200 clubs worldwide. I am here today speaking on my own behalf.

Last month, our Club helped sponsor Dr Rex Kern, quarterback of the 1968 OSU NCAA Football Champions for a talk and signing of his new book, “The Road to the Horseshoe and Beyond”. The next day, he boarded the Annual Buckeye Cruise for Cancer ship --he was taking 1,200 of his books for signing to raise money for cancer research —I heard he raised over \$60,000. Many former OSU football players continue to help raise money for OSU needs and other community programs.

I want to thank Representative Brian Stewart for asking me to come and speak in favor of the resolution to restore the 12-1 winning record of 2010. When asking local friends about the 2010 season and the NCAA vacated wins action, all begin to talk loudly about this travesty.

Five members of the OSU football team did commit an infraction of the NCAA rules in 2010. They were each given 5 game suspensions for the 2011 season, a heavy penalty for each player.

The actions they did are well documented—they gave items including Jerseys, rings and gold pants to a parlor in exchange for tattoos.

Let me ask-- did anyone here make a poor decision or two when they were the age of 18 -22. I know I did. I raised 3 boys and I can assure you that all 3 boys made some bad choices that they wished they never did at that age, some I know about and I am sure some I do not know about. When I found out about their poor decisions or choices, I advised them I did not approve and they should make right what they did, whether it was returning something or giving an apology. If they did not want to take my

“suggestion”, I had the power of persuasion--I controlled a flow of money to them and they appropriately decided to keep me happy and assure that the money flow continued- so they made their actions right.

Steve Spurrier, the famous NCAA football coach, and in 2012 the head coach of the University of South Carolina Gamecocks, proposed to the university that he and his coaches, out of their income, would be willing to give each of his players \$3,000 to \$4,000 a year (total over \$400,000 a year) for other usual college student expenses not covered by their scholarships. He realized that situation was a major problem for the players --they would be tempted to look for other ways to raise money. And he added that all the other SEC coaches agreed with him. Unfortunately, the university turned the proposal down.

So, the 5 OSU team players made a bad decision and were disciplined. Then inappropriately the NCAA decided to vacate all the records of the team for that year, a black mark for them and the team. The collateral damage to the team and the university was so over the top that very few could believe it. That NCAA action follows everyone connected to the 2010 program for the rest of their lives.

There is nothing in the NCAA rule book that says this specific action should have been taken for this type infraction. And I believe, the incident had no effect on the team in playing its games that year. I am trying to figure out how those tattoos might have affected the outcome of games—maybe a player on the other team was looking at a cool tattoo and did not react when the ball was snapped?

My feeling is that the NCAA used this heavy handed action as an “example” to put other schools on notice to reinforce the rules to your players. I never liked this idea to make someone or a team given extraordinary punishment than called for to simply make an example of them. And now the NCAA allows players to make money.

I guess the best reason for the NCAA to reinstate the OSU 2010 records is what Representative Steward cites in his Sponsor Testimony for this Resolution. Penn State had a far more egregious situation happen in 2012 which included child rape. The NCAA evacuated their records --then in the face of lawsuits restored the Penn State records in 2015. Go figure!

In summary, I urge you to take action on this resolution—there is no downside—the upside is an important part of OSU history would be rightly restored.

