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State Representative, 98<sup>th</sup> House District

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Government Committee thank you very much for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 237. This legislation is intended to modernize electronic records and conveyances in County Recorders' offices by proposing changes to ORC Sections 317.13, 317.32 and 317.36.

The goal of these changes are to promote commerce in real estate transactions in Ohio by establishing a baseline for technology to allow conveyances to occur electronically in all of Ohio's 88 counties and ensuring electronically accessible records going back to 1980. This policy change has been discussed with a variety of organizations doing business within all 88 counties and is a reintroduction of HB 797 from the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly. Specifically, the bill would require:

- By January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2024, all county recorders, county auditors and county engineers in charge of the tax map department shall make available an electronic recording process for conveyances.
- County recorders shall make available an electronic recording process for all other documents defined in Sec. 317.08 except for 317.08 (A) (24) and those documents specifically exempted in the county's land transfer policy that is in compliance with Section 319.203 and Section 315.251.
- By January 1, 2024, all county recorders shall make available to the public on the internet electronic indexes and electronic documents dating back to January 1, 1980, except veteran discharge papers as they are not public record per Section 149.43 (A)(1)(z).

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair John, and Ranking Member Kelly, thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 237 and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.