



WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
COMMITTEE

OPPONENT TESTIMONY

HB 422

March 2, 2022

Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair John, Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to write in opposition of HB 442.

The Ohio Municipal League appreciates Rep. Fraizer for working with us on this legislation. However, as currently written, the substitute bill does not address all concerns regarding municipalities.

While the bill addresses municipalities and counties, it does not address regional water and sewer districts or limited Home Rule townships, both of which have the same taxing authority as municipalities and counties. If this is a statewide problem, all parties need to be addressed.

There is also a concern regarding the appeals process. All billing appeals would go to the Environmental Review Appeals Commission, which only meets in Columbus. If this body will be responsible for hearing all the appeals from the entire state, the League requests that it be made possible for appeals to be heard locally.

Finally, the bill that mandates municipalities pay attorney fees if they lose an appeal. This could result in municipalities spending substantial amounts of taxpayer dollars if small charges are appealed and municipality loses and must pay large attorney fees. Furthermore, the bill does not specify that the appellant in turn must pay the municipality's attorney fees if they lose; the provision only applies to municipalities. We strongly oppose this provision.

Thank you for your consideration, and we urge for your opposition to this bill.

Sincerely,

Kent Scarrett  
Executive Director  
Ohio Municipal League