



Working together for Ohio farmers to advance agriculture and strengthen our communities.

**Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 18
Before the House Ways and Means Committee
Tony Seegers, Director of State Policy
February 23, 2021**

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Reidel, Ranking Member Sobecki, members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation in support of SB 18.

Provisions in SB 18 will help ensure economic assistance funding provided to Ohio businesses don't lose their impact by becoming a tax liability. Among the most important provisions for farmers is the exemption of forgiven Paycheck Protection Program loan amounts from the commercial activity tax (CAT). Farms, agribusinesses, and businesses that are part of the food supply chain have been utilizing this program to keep workers on payroll during the pandemic. Exempting these loans from the CAT will help our agricultural community to continue its recovery from COVID 19.

We are also grateful for the bill's exemption of Bureau of Workers' Compensation dividends from the CAT. To receive the benefit of these programs only to be forced to account for them as new tax liabilities under the CAT is counter-productive to their intent.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB 18.

Tony Seegers, Esq.
Director of State Policy