



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

**House Ways and Means Committee
HB 614 Proponent Testimony
Evan Callicot, Director of State Policy
May 22, 2022**

Chairman Merrin, Vice Chair Riedel, Ranking Member Sobecki, and other members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the chance to offer proponent testimony on House Bill 614. This legislation seeks to achieve greater clarity and a more consistent application of Ohio's 10% non-business property tax rollback. Ohio Farm Bureau strongly supports the bill.

Currently, there is inconsistency from county to county in how the property tax rollback is applied to timber producing wood lots. This results in different tax bills from county to county placing timber producers in counties where the rollback is not extended at a competitive disadvantage. In extreme situations, property owners have been assessed back taxes when a new county auditor takes office and has a different interpretation of the law than their predecessor. House Bill 614 would gain clarity around this issue by clearly defining agriculture in the manner in which it is defined in ORC 1.61, which is consistent in the manner it is defined across multiple other sections of the Ohio Revised Code.

Timber is included in this definition of agriculture, and this language change will eliminate any misconceptions on whether or not timber should be included in the non-business tax rollback in the future. We hope this change will bring uniformity across the state and give certainty to our commercial timber producers.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify regarding HB 614; I will happily take any questions from the committee.