

To: Rep. J. Schmidt

From: George West
(513) 675-3934
10/03/2023

Rep. Schmidt,

As you already know, the Fire Department HQ, Station 18 in Goshen, Ohio, was struck by an EF2 tornado on July 6, 2022. Due to the age of the building and the fire department's growth since the building was constructed, and the cost of repairing and upgrading the building to new, expensive standards, the expense will be far greater than what the building was insured for.

Because of the destruction caused by this tornado, the fire department's budget has been stretched beyond its limits. Currently, the fire department is working out of a single wide mobile home and sharing equipment space with the service department. It cannot be a permanent solution, but will assure service for the near term. The township is currently looking at any and all grant funds that they may qualify for.

As a concerned citizen, I am writing to express that it is my feeling that anything you can do to help with funding this project will greatly benefit the citizens in Goshen Township, as well as surrounding communities, in times of wide spread catastrophes, such as this tornado.

I have been informed that HB244 is being considered with 2.5 million dollars included to help rebuild this fire station. I applaud your efforts. Even though I am not a resident of Goshen, I feel a deep connection with its residents through my involvement with the Goshen Township Historical Society and Goshen Local Schools. If passed, this will ensure the safety and wellbeing of this community well into the future. I encourage the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,
George M. West