



October 3, 2023

Ohio House of Representatives
Vern Riffe State Office Tower
77 S. High Street #12
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Subject: House Bill 244

Chairman Edwards, Vice Chair LaRe, Ranking Member Sweeney, and Members of the House Finance Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony on House Bill 244 and requesting your support to allocate \$2.5M to rebuild Goshen Fire House #18. I am honored to address you on this important issue.

On July 6, 2022 the brave men and women from the Goshen Township Fire Department were called upon by the citizens to response to an EF2 tornado and its aftermath. Without hesitation firefighters, EMT's, paramedics and law enforcement of Goshen Township ran into danger to protect lives and limit the damage to the residences, businesses and schools. Without regard for their safety, they worked tirelessly to protect and ensure residents safety only to return to Firehouse #18 and find it destroyed. From July 6, 2022 they have bravely stood their post without a firehouse. They have continued to provide excellent services by utilizing a nearby service garage and a temporary trailer. Today you have the opportunity to support HB 244 and return them to their house as they have helped those impacted return to theirs.

The need for this monetary help came about when planning efforts identified that Goshen Township has not been able to receive disaster assistance sufficient to construct a new firehouse per the current estimates. The cost today to ensure compliance with current building codes will result in a \$2.5M delta. House Bill 244 allocates \$2.5M to bridge the needed delta.

Members', I humbly request your help and support for House Bill 244. It isn't often that you have the opportunity to answer the call of duty and run into an EF2 tornado. Today the good citizens of Goshen Township hope that you will bravely answer the call.

Thanks you for the opportunity to speak with you by written testimony today. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David L. Painter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Commissioner David L. Painter
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