



**Tim Williams, Executive Director
Ohio Manufactured Homes Association
House Ways and Means Committee
House Bill 344 proponent testimony
January 9, 2024**

Chairman Roemer, Vice Chair Lorenz, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, I am Tim Williams, Executive Director of the Ohio Manufactured Homes Association. On behalf of the Ohio Manufactured Homes Association, I am providing a proponent statement on House Bill 344.

Since 1947 the Ohio Manufactured Homes Association (OMHA) has represented all segments of the manufactured housing industry providing affordable housing to over 900,000 Ohioans living in manufactured homes. Our mission is to help people experience the lifestyle associated with home ownership in the most economical way. Whether it's in a planned community or on the land of their choice, manufactured homes exist to provide comfort, safety, and convenience in the most economical and desirable way.

Homeowners are regularly faced with the prospect of voting on a property tax levy when going to the voting booth, often resulting in questions as they try to understand the impact of the levies on their property tax bills. Property tax levies are complicated enough without having to deal with confusingly similar terms such as “renewal” and “replacement”. By eliminating replacement levies HB 344 takes a step toward simplifying Ohio’s property tax law, providing clarity regarding what voters are actually voting on.

In addition, HB 344 closes a loophole that some governmental entities have used to skirt the law. Current law limits the ability to file a property tax complaint unless done so by a property owner. The bill makes it clear that third parties cannot file complaints on behalf of a political subdivision to get around the law. The complaint process for property valuations should be strictly for the property owner who is paying the taxes, not used as a tool for government to attempt to obtain more revenue.

As it is not uncommon for homeowners to face increased economic pressure due to rising property taxes, it is imperative that we have as much clarity and



transparency as possible when it comes to property taxes. OMHA supports HB 344 in its effort to do just that.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to provide comments in support of House Bill 344.