



Join Committee on Property Tax

Witness Form

Today's Date: 5/6/24

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Organization Representing: BEEKMAN CORRIDOR COALITION

Estimated Duration of Time of Testimony: 3 MINUTES

Are you Register Lobbyist: Yes No

Special Request: _____

Written Testimony is a public record and may be posted on the Ohio Senate's Website

Good Morning State Legislators. My name is Paul Garrison, a local realtor and resident of South Fairmount in Cincinnati, Ohio. I'm passionate about rebuilding communities and adding value to the areas I call home. When I moved to the area a little over a year ago, I had no idea about the property tax increase. It has made me have to scout for more jobs and try to compensate for extra expenses.

Working with the Beekman Corridor Coalition, we've identified vacant houses and empty lots as a major concern in South Cumminsville, North Fairmount, Millvale, English Woods, and South Fairmount. These eyesores not only bring down property values but also impact safety. We're seeking funding for revitalization projects, including grants for affordable senior housing and first-time homebuyer programs.

Currently, the median income in these areas is \$35,843. Many residents, especially long-time homeowners, struggle with rising property taxes. They want to hold onto their properties for future generations but can't afford the recent increases. As a Realtor I would like to see more people achieve their dreams of home ownership. We urge the state to review the property tax formula and consider offering financial assistance programs to help people pay their taxes.

Our communities have a strong spirit, with roughly 51% renters and 49% homeowners. Through continued collaboration, I see incredible potential in these often-overlooked neighborhoods. We have ongoing community clean-up initiatives and block parties, fostering a sense of pride and ownership. With support, we can transform these areas into vibrant, thriving communities. Thank you for your time.