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Contact Information:

Office: (614) 644-6034
Email: Rep63@ohiohouse.gov

77 S. High St., Columbus,
OH 43215

**Representative Adam C. Bird
Ohio House District 63**

**Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 187
Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
November 28, 2023**

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Smith and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 187, modifying the procedures to conduct a property tax sales-assessment study.

House Bill 187 is a simple bill that essentially changes the word “may” to the word “shall”. Currently, the office of the tax commissioner may use the previous 3 years of arms’ length transactions for the purpose of determining the common level of assessment of real property within the counties pursuant to section 5715.19 of the Revised Code and for the purpose of equalization. This bill would insist that the tax commissioner use the previous 3 year average to assess new property values in a county.

The impact of that word change is dramatic in my home county of Clermont. My county is currently in the process of re-evaluating property values and if a 1 year value is used, property values will go up 43%. If the tax commissioner is required to use a 3 year average, property values will go up 23%. Most people would be very concerned if property values were increased by the 23%. Most people would be concerned if rates rose at the rate of inflation. But the 43% is unfair.

I ask this committee to support HB 187 so that this does not continue to happen around the state of Ohio.

Chairman Blessing and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important piece of legislation. I am happy to answer your questions.