



GALLIA COUNTY AUDITOR

Robert J. Jacks

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February 24, 2025

Good afternoon, Chairman Holmes, Vice-Chair Klopfenstein, Ranking Member Glassburn, and esteemed Committee Members,

My name is Robbie Jacks, and I serve as the Gallia County Auditor. Today, I am here to voice my strong opposition to HB 15. I want to make it clear that I am representing Gallia County specifically and not the County Auditor's Association of Ohio.

Auditor P.D. Knipp has already provided a thorough explanation of the significant challenges that counties with generation plants will face if this legislation is passed in its current form. While I acknowledge the Legislature's proactive efforts to secure Ohio's future electricity generation needs, placing the burden on local governments is not the solution. The impact on Gallia County will be severe, and I am here to provide specific figures illustrating the harm this bill will cause to our county, schools, and essential services.

The generation facilities in Gallia County are located in Cheshire and Addison Townships, within the Gallia County Local School District. The current Public Utility Personal Property (PUPP) value for these facilities is \$173,322,660. The total valuation of all transmission facilities in the county stands at \$96,467,330. A proposed four percent increase in transmission values would bring that figure to \$100,326,020, resulting in a total valuation loss of \$72,996,640 for our county.

My office has prepared a Gallia County Tax Loss Spreadsheet, and I would like to present some key figures for the record:

- Gallia County General Fund: \$248,189
- Gallia County Board of Developmental Disabilities: \$204,391
- Gallia County Local School District (Operations): \$2,106,839
- Gallia County LSD (Permanent Improvement): \$105,342
- Gallia County LSD Bond Levy: \$410,834
- Gallia LSD Debt: \$36,870
- Gallia County Joint Vocational School: \$145,933
- Cheshire Township General Fund: \$58,270
- Cheshire Township Road & Bridge Fund: \$32,372
- Addison Township General Fund: \$100,014
- Addison Township Road & Bridge Fund: \$50,007
- Addison Township Fire Fund: \$50,007
- Gallia County Health Department: \$72,997
- University of Rio Grande Operations: \$72,997
- Total Estimated Annual Revenue Loss: **\$3,863,013**



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These losses will be devastating to our small rural county, which already faces economic challenges. One of the most alarming impacts will be on the Gallia County Local School District. If HB 15 is enacted, the remaining school debt will be forced onto local taxpayers. An estimated \$450,000 in annual tax payments will shift to taxpayers, significantly increasing their financial burden. This would cause the Gallia County Budget Commission to increase the property tax rate by just under one (1) mill on the remaining tax payers in the county.

I echo Auditor Knipp's concerns regarding the negative impact this bill will have on economic development, essential government services, and public safety. At a time when our residents are already struggling and awaiting real property tax reform, HB 15 will only add to their hardship. It is not just Gallia County that will suffer—every county with a generation plant will face similar consequences.

On behalf of the citizens of Gallia County, I urge you to take these concerns into serious consideration as this bill moves through committee. Thank you for your time and attention. I am honored to stand before you today and welcome any questions you may have.