



**House Local Government Committee
HB 113 Proponent Testimony
Evan Callicoa, Director of State Policy
April 30th, 2025**

Chairwoman King, Vice Chair Kishman, Ranking Member Sims, and other members of the House Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 113. HB 113 will ensure that Ohio's annexation process truly serves the public good and only *benefits* the communities impacted by it, with greater public participation and transparency.

The Ohio Farm Bureau prides itself on being the premier grassroots organization in Ohio. We are driven by the ideas and concerns of our members at the local level, and this issue is no different. We have heard from our members across the state that the current annexation process, specifically Type II (expedited), often excludes vital community input and can occur quickly with little or no notice. This creates unnecessary animosity even in the best annexation processes, where the goal is to better serve our respective communities. Farmers in Ohio own only about half of the land they farm, with the other half being rented. Expedited annexations increase development pressure on farmland and ultimately contribute to the increased loss of farmland across Ohio, all without the input or approval of elected officials.. HB 113 ensures that any proposed annexation will serve the best interests of the impacted communities, and community members will always have a voice in the process.

Specifically, HB 113 requires that *all types of annexation* serve the general good of the communities affected by it. This provision ensures that a proposed annexation will genuinely benefit the communities involved, without taking unnecessary land (which is most often additional farmland) and further pressuring land availability for agriculture. Additionally, the bill reduces the maximum acreage requirement from 500 acres to 200 acres and increases the contiguous boundary requirement from 5% to 20%. Both of these provisions will ensure that the proposed annexation is narrow in scope and protects farmland from unnecessary municipal expansion. As our members face pressure from development of all types, along with market and weather uncertainty, HB 113 provides stability and ensures a fair and transparent process for annexation.

OFBF would like to thank Representative Bird and Representative Newman for introducing this legislation, and the committee for its time and attention this morning. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.