

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: June 11, 2025

Name: Fred M. Rush

Are you representing: Yourself ☐ Organization ☒

Organization (If Applicable): Hardin County Commissioners

Position/Title: Hardin County Commissioner Chairman

Address: One Courthouse Square, Suite 100

City: Kenton State: Ohio Zip: 43326-1575

Best Contact Telephone: (419) 674-2205 Email: commissioners@hardincountyohio.gov

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes ☐ No ☒

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 335

Specific Issue: Opposition to HB 335

Are you testifying as a: Proponent ☐ Opponent ☒ Interested Party ☐

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes ☐ No ☒

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? Will not be present for testimony reading.

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Please see attached statement from the Hardin County Commissioners. We will not be present to during testimony readings. We are simply going on record concerning our opposition of HB 335.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.



Commissioners Office

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FRED M. RUSH
TIMOTHY L. STRIKER
JOSEPH C. SHERMAN

The Hardin County Commissioners, with respect, would like to convey their thoughts concerning House Bill 335. Needless to say, as written, Hardin County opposes House Bill 335 as introduced with the elimination of inside millage, which is currently 2.8 mills. The effect of this change would be a reduction of approximately 20% of the County's Annual General Fund Revenue Budget. To compensate for that, the state is recommending adding up to an additional 1% sales tax, but it would need voter approval. Hardin County's greatest fear is the inability of our Hardin County citizens to pass a sales tax increase, no matter what the percentage increase is. Our suggestion would be to have any tax increase to offset House Bill 335 Inside Millage reduction would be mandated by the State of Ohio. Without this revenue, Hardin County would be forced to make annual cost reductions to our General Fund by 20%.


Our second concern deals with Green Energy PILOT payments, and the lack of any mentioning of it or understanding the potential consequences if HB 335 is adopted. In our opinion, as proposed, our PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) is in jeopardy of losing an additional \$160,500 with the county's inside millage removed from the PILOT calculation. Our recommendation is that there are no changes to the existing PILOT formula, pertaining to current inside millage.

As you can see, there is much concern with HB 335 and the Hardin County Commissioners. We humbly request your consideration of our thoughts.

Thank you.


Fred Rush-Chairman 6/17/2025


Joe Sherman 6/17/2025


Tim Striker 6/17/2025