



June 17, 2025

Bill Roemer
77 South High Street
11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Rep31@ohiohouse.gov

Dear Representative Roemer,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Tallmadge to express our **strong opposition to House Bill 335, the “Property Tax Relief Now Act,” currently under consideration by the Ohio General Assembly.**

While we support meaningful reforms that provide property tax relief to Ohio residents, HB 335 proposes provisions that would have a detrimental impact on our local government and its ability to serve the residents of Tallmadge. Specifically, we are concerned with the bill’s elimination of unvoted inside millage and the expanded authority it grants to county budget commissions.

Concerns Regarding Elimination of Inside Millage:

- Inside millage is an essential source of revenue for municipalities like ours, funding critical local services such as police, fire, emergency medical services, road maintenance, and parks. The elimination of inside millage would significantly reduce our financial flexibility and create an immediate budgetary crisis. **The direct effect of this bill would be a loss of approximately \$1,600,000.00 annually; of which, a great portion funds our Fire/EMS Department. A crippling effect on our ability to provide life saving services to our community.**
- This drastic measure would harm local governments' ability to provide services without the ability to raise taxes through votes of the electorate. It effectively undermines our local fiscal autonomy and forces us into a situation where we must rely more heavily on state funding or alternative revenue sources such as income or sales taxes, which may not adequately replace lost revenue.

Concerns Regarding County Budget Commissions:

- HB 335’s provision to expand the authority of county budget commissions raises serious concerns. These commissions, which are often not well-known to the public, would gain the power to limit local tax rates, revise municipal budgets, and reduce tax levies based on their review. This level of control over local budgets



THE CITY OF
TALLMADGE
HISTORY MOVING FORWARD

CAROL SICILIANO-KILWAY, MAYOR

CKILWAY@TALLMADGEOH.GOV

PHONE: (330) 633-0857 FAX: (330) 633-4922

should remain with municipal officials, who are most directly accountable to our constituents.

- This would create a loss of local control over how we allocate resources, potentially putting vital services in jeopardy and creating confusion about fiscal policies that were previously managed by our local government.

We respectfully urge you to oppose HB 335 in its current form. While we agree that property tax reform is necessary, we believe this bill oversteps the bounds of local autonomy and would significantly harm municipalities and their residents. Instead, we encourage the Legislature to pursue a balanced approach that addresses property tax concerns while maintaining the ability of local governments to manage their own budgets and levy taxes.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your service to the people of Ohio and trust that you will consider the negative implications of HB 335 on our local governments and the municipalities you represent. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely

Carol Siciliano-Kilway
Mayor, City of Tallmadge