



## **Adams County/Ohio Valley School District**

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**November 3, 2025**

**Dear Members of the House Ways and Means Committee,**

On behalf of the Adams County Ohio Valley School District, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation for your ongoing efforts to support rural Appalachian education.

We are especially grateful for your consideration of **House Bill 540**, which would require conservation organizations owning more than 15,000 acres in a single county to contribute 2.5 percent of the unimproved land value back to local governments. This bill represents an important step in reconciling outdated legislation and aligning with the standards under which the Ohio Department of Natural Resources operates with state parks.

House Bill 540 would help relieve the burden on local taxpayers while continuing to sustain vital services within our communities. As stewards of public resources, it is our duty to ensure a balanced and fair approach to fiscal responsibility. We believe HB 540, as currently written, provides a reasonable balance between protecting taxpayers and maintaining educational stability, especially in light of ongoing property tax rollbacks.

For these reasons, we thank you in advance for your support of House Bill 540 and for your continued commitment to fair and equitable public policy for all Ohio students.

Respectfully,

*Dawn Wallace*

**Dawn Wallace**  
Superintendent  
Adams County Ohio Valley School District