

Ohio House of Representatives
House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee

House Bill 398

May 3rd, 2016

Chairman Brown, Vice Chairman Blessing, Ranking Member Clyde, and members of the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 398. I am a farmer in Guernsey County near the Belmont County line, in hill country. I farm beef cattle and hay, as these are the only viable crops in this part of Ohio. We have seen our CAUV taxes doubled again this year, after it was doubled about 6 years ago.

We have steep hillside ground that barely makes cattle pasture, but is taxed like good cropland. We also have ground which is under water (swampland/wetland), which had huge tax increases this year. We sold calves in December 2015 and saw a 43% drop in prices from December 2014. With calf prices continuing in a downward spiral this year, it's clear that farm income will be down further this year.

The increases in CAUV tax will further drive farmers out of business in Ohio. I will end with an example: We have a cattle barn which was included on a parcel with CAUV reduction. This year, the county auditor found that the barn is actually on my residential parcel with my house. Imagine this: we will get a credit on our taxes because it is cheaper to have a barn on the residential parcel with no reductions than on a CAUV parcel. Something is horribly wrong with a system where reductions raise property taxes! Property taxes will take a full half of my calf crop this year. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony for HB 398.

Brian Roe

(740)-758-5501

Jroe1@windstream.net