

OHIO ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE HEARING

Chairman Representative Tim Brown, Vice Chairman Representative Louis Blessing III, Ranking Member Representative Kathaleen Clyde, and others present.

A SIMPLE REQUEST ON BEHALF OF OHIO WOODLAND OWNERS "TAXES AND FRAGMENTATION" are two of the main problems for Woodland Owners. We have SOLUTIONS.

"IF YOU WANT LESS OF SOMETHING, TAX IT."--"IF YOU WANT LESS OHIO WOODLANDS, TAX IT AND FORCE MANAGE"—"IF YOU WANT GOOD QUALITY WATER IN OHIO, HELP WOODLAND OWNERS, EVERY WAY POSSIBLE TO KEEP THEIR WOODLAND."

WE RECOMMEND a 'Simplified', "OHIO WOODLAND OWNERS INCENTIVE PLAN". We Woodland Owners have worked with committees for 12 years now. We have developed a workable, "SIMPLIFIED MODEL", to help "QUALIFY" all Woodland Owners.

THIS IS MORE THAN A TAX PROBLEM FOR WOODLAND OWNERS. The Impact of increased (up to 600%) property tax, could have a devastating effect on Woodland in Ohio. More Woodland will be cleared, fragmented into lots, gas lines, or developments. We must consider taxing to developers, or gas line companies, for the loss of woodland for life, or replacement of trees (similar to Wetland Rules), because of all the good trees do for us. Current 31% of Ohio Woodland, will soon be 20%. Currently, 340,000 Ohio Woodland Owners may grow to 800,000 Owners due to "Taxes and Fragmentation", which will result in more POOR QUALITY WATER. NOW is the time to implement a SIMPLIFIED, modified voluntary management plans, without taxation attached in exchange, which all Woodland Owners can QUALIFY to live with. Eliminate the CAUV soil types on Woodlands, and help create a "New Plan Model". Woodland Owners are treated unfair vs Farmers with woodlands. ELEVEN STATES HAVE NO TAX ON WOODLANDS, OHIO SHOULD BE "#12".

STATEMENT OF CONCERN ---Some State and local organizations have taken part in seemingly controlling, self serving negative actions against Ohio Woodland Owners. Many people creating current Woodland State Laws, do not have Woodlands themselves. Regular Woodland Owners have little or NO Legislative Representation.

"FOREST EDUCATION BEATS FOREST REGULATION". Woodland Owners, who are Senior Citizens, Disabled Owners and those who simply want to save their Woodland, must be recognized and encouraged. Now is the time to come up with a "New 2016 LOOK" in Forestry in Ohio. Compliment and give more encouragement to those who have woodland. Show THANKS to them for keeping their woodland together, while providing CLEANER AIR and GOOD QUALITY WATER. Woodland Owners, who can take the next step in Voluntary Management, send a complimentary letter, give awards, give a Tree Farm sign, if they reach that level. We never ever should "Force Manage" for a tax break, or arrange for "Law Enforcement Foresters" to Police Woodland Owners. Owning Woodlands is not affordable, as we can prove.

WE WOODLAND OWNERS, RECOMMEND THE "2016 NEW LOOK" PLAN MODEL name be "THE OHIO WOODLAND OWNERS INCENTIVE PLAN". We recognize all the good our Woodland Owners do by growing trees, which clean our air, filter waterways flowing from Woodland watersheds, and into the Ohio River and Lake Erie. We recommend a ZERO property tax (as in 11 other States), be in a new "OHIO WOODLAND OWNERS INCENTIVE PLAN". The plan would be a "NEW PLAN MODEL", or included in the Forest Tax Law or CAUV. This plan would allow Timber Cuts to be 1 to 100 years with "Best Management Practices". Further managing would be voluntary on Timber Stand Improvements and Invasive Plants, with Educational Programs and Cost Share Programs being available to Woodland Owners.

WANT GOOD QUALITY AIR AND WATER? "HELP SAVE OHIO WOODLANDS EVERY WAY POSSIBLE"

By Ron Ott (OTT'S LOST FOREST), 380 Acre Tree Farm
330 730 1959 1996 Ohio Tree Farm of the Year
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2004 Conservation Forest Farm of the Year
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