

Testimony for House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee

House Bill 398

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May 3rd, 2016

Chairman Brown, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Clyde, and the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit testimony for House Bill 398. We are farmers in Muskingum County, and this is our personal account as to how the CAUV is affecting our farming operation.

The high commodities prices we received in 2013 caused the CAUV formula to raise our real estate taxes considerably. The next year the prices dropped dramatically, but the real estate taxes were still figured at this high rate and, frankly, we cannot bare this tax burden. Soil values doubled, but land values did not.

The person who set the soil values, upon which the formula is based, was not reasonable in his evaluation since in most cases the values doubled from 2012-2015.

The landlords of our rented ground have been assessed these high taxes as well, and as a result want higher rent to off-set their taxes. It costs more to put a crop in the ground per bushel than we are receiving for our crop when it goes to market.

Our tax bill in 2008 (total for the year) was \$4870.00. The tax bill for 2015 is \$20,868.00! (This is AFTER \$6,800.00 for grain bin values was dropped since bins are not a permanent structure.) Plus, there is a possibility taxes will be hiked again in the next year or two.

At this rate, we feel we no longer own the land, but are rather renting it from the government...and we all know what that is! Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 398.