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**Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
Proponent Testimony on House Bill 340
Before the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Amy Milam, Director of Legal Education and Member Engagement
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Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Amy Milam and I am an attorney with the Ohio Farm Bureau where I serve as the Director of Legal Education and Member Engagement. On behalf of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and its members, thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony on HB 340, Speaker Cupp's bill revising Ohio's drainage law.

I had the privilege to serve on behalf of Ohio Farm Bureau as a stakeholder on the Ohio Drainage Law Revision Task Force that was established by the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) in 2013. The Task Force sought to identify problems and issues experienced with the current petition ditch processes and bring much needed modernization to the procedures through clarifying numerous provisions in ORC 940, 6131, 6133, and 6137, addressing solutions to identified issues, embracing new technology and processes to provide for greater efficiencies, and reorganizing the chapters to improve readability. HB 340 is based upon this Task Force's multi-year efforts.

Among the many modernizations this bill encompasses, a major highlight includes modernizing the methods for conducting the view by giving the option to use modern technology (such as PowerPoint, digital maps, video or photographs via drone footage, etc.) to inform those attending the view about the proposed drainage improvement's location and issues intended to be addressed. Another important highlight is increasing the minimum width of the required sod or seeded strip along the drainage improvement from four feet to ten feet. This will provide for better erosion and sediment control and aligns with Ohio Farm Bureau's support for efforts that improve soil and water conservation efforts.

Another aspect of the modernization in which I was particularly engaged was the general "clean-up" and reorganization of the chapters for improved readability as well as the replacement of archaic terminology with modern terminology.

In summary, HB 340 addresses the long overdue revisions and modernizations needed in the petition drainage statutes and encompasses the improvements sought by CCAO's Ohio Drainage Law Revision Task Force.

Thank you again Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for this opportunity to testify today in support of HB 340. I will be happy to answer any questions.