



Bob Peterson
State Senator
17th District

Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-8156 Office

Committees:

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Energy and Public Utilities
Rules and Reference
Finance
Veterans and Public Safety

Chairman Koehler, Vice Chair Creech, Ranking Member Brent and members of the Ohio House Agriculture and Conservation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 128 which would expand content and specifications for the Ohio State University's Farm Financial Management Institute.

The Farm Financial Management Institute is a unified center for the integration, translation, and communication of the Ohio State College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences' farm management and ag policy presence that addresses critical farm management and policy issues affecting Ohioans. Working with collaborators in Ohio and nationwide, the Institute seeks to solve critical issues facing producers, engage fellow university units in developing best practices on a wide range of topics, and identify gaps in farm management and ag policy. The institute was created in 2013 by the 130th General Assembly.

Senate Bill 128 is a simple bill adding 19 words and deleting 3, but the changes are important. The program name becomes the Farm Production, Policy, and Financial Management Institute and encourages the integration of farm production practices, agricultural marketing, and farm policy challenges in addition to the financial management challenges already statutorily required of the program. Second, the bill adds "farm owners and managers" to the list of individuals given priority for participation in the program. Lastly, the bill appropriates \$250,000 in each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to the Institute.

Senate Bill 128 will allow the Institute to have a greater role in solving the complex issues facing agricultural producers in Ohio and will further strengthen the collaborative efforts of individuals and groups sharing common goals that range the ag industry spectrum. Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.