

Thank you for the opportunity to respond as a proponent of HB 63. My family farm is in Stark County, where the Stark County Parks District is putting a trail through the center . While our case was not one of eminent domain, but an ownership dispute, the parks and their lawyers told the neighbors and my family more than once "they had eminent domain" or, if they lost the case, "they would just take it".

A few of the parks directors have been quoted saying "they needed eminent domain as a negotiating tool". Is that what the French called the guillotine during the revolution, or the British called the rack? a "Negotiating Tool". these may be a bit more drastic, but it's the same idea.

Most of the people here today have worked day and night to pay for their farms and houses. My father worked in the shop during the day, then farmed on the nights and weekends, while most people were sleeping or relaxing, just to provide for his family, pay his mortgage and pay his taxes. Eminent domain used against these people can cost them tens of thousands of dollars, not to mention the emotional strain.

Is this how we want to treat the hard working people of this state? Let groups of unelected officials take taxpayers property with no accountability? Afterall, HB 63 does not take away all eminent domain from the parks boards, it just puts that decision in the hands of local ELECTED officials who can be held accountable.

I hope this committee can back this bill and help it to become law to not only help the people of Mahoning county, but also Stark, Greene and every other county in Ohio.

I sincerely thank you for this opportunity

Daniel A Dickerhoof DVM