

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 126
TO
THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

BY

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Chairman Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Minority Member Williams, and members of the Ways and Means Committee of the Ohio Senate, I am writing to restate opposition to House Bill (HB) 126 on behalf of the North Olmsted City School District.

The North Olmsted City Schools supplied previous testimony to the Senate Ways and Means Committee for its hearing on Tuesday, November 9, including a suggestion for implementing parameters at the district level, set by the board of education, which would provide guidelines for Treasurers related to property valuation challenges.

Such guidelines would ensure fairness for all taxpayers in any action the district might take since, due to the effects of HB 920, property owners with accurate property values would end up subsidizing the lower taxes paid by property owners whose properties are undervalued.

For example, North Olmsted challenges commercial property valuations only, and only moves forward when the change in value will be \$50,000 or more. We are also willing to pursue mutually beneficial agreements with commercial property owners, outside of the BOR process, as we recently did with one of our local car dealerships.

Ohio's current property valuation and tax system has worked to benefit North Olmsted residents for decades, which is critical to a community that bears 76% of the cost for public education.

Through county boards of revision, the system affords all interested parties the ability to participate in the process, providing a proper procedure for checks and

balances to preserve and maintain fair and equal taxation practices. We believe HB 126 makes unnecessary changes to this system.

Therefore, the North Olmsted Board of Education continues to urge the Senate Ways and Means Committee to reject HB 126 as it is currently written.

Thank you for your consideration.