

Ohio Senate Ways and Means Committee

Written Testimony of Matthew Aultman

In Support of HB 95 also known as the Family Farm Regeneration Act

February 28, 2022

Chair Blessing, Vice-Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Williams, and all committee members, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

In reference to the above subject legislation, I write in support of this transformative entry level program that sets up a procedure for young farmers to enter the industry along with benefiting the farmer who is willing to foster the growth of this individual through a tax credit.

I have been lucky to grow up in the agriculture industry in a multigenerational family farm and know firsthand the hurdles that are present to pass the farming operation to someone else. For most the only planning that has taken place for transferring the operation is no planning at all and the passing of the farmer is the action that triggers the transferring. These necessary tools laid out in HB 95 allow for an alternate option to many farmers who want the farm legacy to continue and pass their knowledge onto the next generation.

The program has taken a 360 degree look at the aspects of the farm to make the individual who steps up to have the tools to be successful. The bill stipulates 10 key items that the young farmer must adhere to that holds them accountable to not only the farmer, the state, but also themselves. Accountability and Responsibility are key attributes of many successful people; and these values were instilled in me through the FFA and it should not be forgotten as you deliberate on the consideration of passing this bill.

As not every farm is the same, this bill has given allowances to the Director of Agriculture for latitude in implementing this program. This discretion is key as farming grapes in northeast Ohio is far different than use flat land farmers in western Ohio. The forethought of the drafters of this legislation has put a cap on the allowable tax credit to test the waters on the implementation and success rate of this bill; but the \$10 million cap will be reached quicker than we all think as inputs, assets, and businesses are affected by inflation, global supply chain issues, and land prices continue to rise.

In closing, I am thankful that this bill is an option on the horizon for young men and women entering the agriculture industry. I am also grateful that we as a State are looking to the future as we consider the success of the economic health of our State.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter,

Matthew Aultman
Farmer, Parent of future farmers, and OEFFA member