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To: House Criminal Justice Committee
From: Representative Bill Seitz and Representative Hercel Craig
Date: March 28th, 2017
Re: Joint Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 125

Chairman Manning, Vice-Chair Rezabek, Ranking Member Johnson, and members of the House Criminal

Justice Committee thank you for allowing Representative Craig and myself to give sponsor testimony on

House Bill 125.

Since HB 125 pertains specifically to a village within Representative Craig's district, I will keep my

comments brief. Many local jurisdictions that had their mayor's courts abolished in the 129th General

Assembly responded by setting up "civil-violations systems". This gave jurisdictions, with a population

under 200, the ability to fine drivers without ever having to report it to the BMV or the county court.

The fines would be set by the local jurisdiction and they would receive all of the funds. It was brought to

my attention that some villages were charging up to $1,500 for some traffic citations. HB 125 looks to

halt this unscrupulous practice by capping the fines in excess or not included in local municipal or county

court's schedule of fines.

In the 130th General Assembly, Senate Bill 342 was enacted to prevent localities from using traffic law photo-monitoring devices unless law enforcement was present. SB 342 was in response to a money grab by localities and the photo-monitoring device companies. HB 125 is a similar response to another money grab by the localities.

It is our hope that this General Assembly will be able to pass another piece of the legislation that will tell these villages that we are aware of what they are doing, and will continue to work towards ending these schemes.

Chairman Manning, thank you again for giving Representative Craig and I the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 125. We would be happy to answer any questions that the members of the committee may have at this time.