

Board of Education

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Port Clinton Middle School

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Bataan Memorial

Intermediate Elementary

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Bataan Memorial

Primary Elementary

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Testimony of Jeff Dornbusch on HB 371

December 9, 2018

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Minority Member Rogers and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, my name is Jeff Dornbusch, Treasurer of Port Clinton City Schools, Port Clinton Ohio. I am here today to provide opposition testimony to HB 371.

It appears the proposed bill is intended to change historic valuation procedures to adjust the valuation annually for changes of land use, platting, and construction of road and utilities. The Bill may very well result in the loss of revenue to local governments, including school districts.

The Port Clinton City School District has lost over \$2,000,000 in State Funding over the past 10 years **WITHOUT** a reduction in student population. Most of this has come through the elimination of TPP taxes and TPP reimbursements. The state funding formula does not work for our school district because the high property value in one of our townships distorts and totally negates the below average income of many of our families who live in our city. Our current free/reduced rate for our elementary students stands at 50%.

Due to the current school funding formula, we at Port Clinton are tied to local property value as our only means of dealing with inflation. We do not receive any additional funding from the state and as already mentioned, we have received significant cuts in funding.

The reason we strongly oppose this bill is we see it as yet another way the state continues to take away our ability to fund our schools. While the intent to possibly spur economic activity is understood, we believe there are other tools available at the local level that could provide incentives that can be judged on their individual merits by the local officials.