



GORHAM-FAYETTE FIRE DEPARTMENT

118 E. Main St.
Fayette, OH 43521

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Scherer, Ranking Member Rogers, and Members of the House Ways & Means committee,

I am Fire Chief Robert E Stillion from the Gorham Fayette Volunteer Fire Department. I have been involved in the Fire Service for 39 years and rose through the ranks from Firefighter to Chief. I have been the Fire Chief for the Gorham Fayette Volunteer Fire Dept. for the past 8 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 575.

I have seen many changes in the past 39 years, the most disturbing is a decrease in the number of volunteer firefighters in the great State of Ohio.

The Gorham Fayette FD is asking for your support of this bill. We are a very small rural Volunteer Fire Department in NW Ohio. Recruitment and retention is difficult as we are struggling with recruiting new younger members. We do not have a large tax base due to a lack of current industrial complexes which means most younger members of the community leave soon after school.

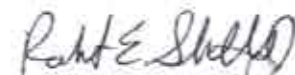
I feel this would be another tool we could use to help with recruitment of new younger members. Volunteer Firefighters across the state give up numerous hours of their time to serve their community in times of need. Most of these members use their own vehicle and own fuel doing so. The added burden of doing this often means money out of their pocket that could be used for other items. This tax credit would help to put some of that money back in their pocket.

I am asking for your support and passage of this bill for all of the volunteer firefighters in the State of Ohio, not just the members of my department.

Thank you again for the opportunity to give testimony on HB 575.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Robert E Stillion Jr.

Fire Chief

Comments:

Due to Surgery on 5/21/18 I am unable to
give testimony in person.

Please note: No photography or electronic recording of committee proceedings permitted without the consent of the chairman prior to committee.

