



OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

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The Honorable William Coley, Chair
Government Oversight & Reform Committee
Ohio Senate
1 Capital Square - 1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: OTA Support for Sub. HB 34

Dear Chairman Coley:

On behalf of the Ohio Township Association (OTA), I am writing to express our support for Sub. House Bill 34, which authorizes political subdivisions in certain circumstances to notify by ordinary mail and electronically instead of by certified mail.

As you heard in sponsor testimony on March 15, the purpose of certified mail is to provide an indisputable record that an article was actually delivered, or attempted to be delivered to a recipient. Unfortunately, many state, county, and local governments have found the certified mail requirement for specific circumstances to be redundant, if not the most expensive way to verify that an official notice has been delivered.

We appreciate the work of Sponsors Hambley and Ryan, as members of our Association can attest that notification requirements can be extremely costly. From newspaper advertisements, mandatory postings at various locations and mailings, whether by regular or certified mail, townships are using valuable, limited resources for these purposes. In the case of a notification that is redundant, like certified mail for an overdue fine for a repeated false alarm at a structure within a township, those unnecessary and costly expenses should be eliminated. By utilizing regular mail and electronic means, townships will be able to reduce costs while still maintaining the obligation to communicate to a party for the statutorily required reason.

The Ohio Township Association supports Sub. HB 34 as a common sense approach to public notification requirements. We encourage the Government Oversight & Reform Committee to favorably report the measure to the full Senate for passage. Thank you for your consideration of our position. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. DeTemple
Executive Director

MJD:hf