



Rodney Creech

State Representative

43rd District

Sponsor Testimony, April 20th 2021

House Bill 239

Agriculture and Conservation Committee

Chairman Koehler, Ranking Member Brent, and Members of the Ohio House Agriculture and Conservation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 239 which would expand the scope of the Ohio State University's Farm Financial Management Institute.

Housed in OSU Extension, the Farm Financial Management Institute is responsible for training interested and qualified persons to assist farmers needing help with farm financial management problems. The Institute will build on the outstanding work of Extension's Farm Office and their focus on estate planning, legal, taxation and farm business management. The Institute is a unified center for the integration, translation, and communication of the Ohio State College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences' farm management and ag policy presence that addresses critical issues affecting Ohioans.

House Bill 239 has few but important changes to the current Ohio Revised Code adding "farm owners and managers" to the priority list for participation in the program, as well as an appropriation of \$250,000 to the institute in Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023. The funding will accelerate the Institute's ability to address challenges facing producers in various aspects of agricultural production. This bill also changes the name of the program to the Farm Production, Policy, and Financial Management Institute in order to better reflect the vision and goals of the Institution.

As a fourth generation farmer, and coming from a part of Ohio where our base is in agriculture, I am confident this legislation would help our farmers across the state. Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.