



City Of  
EAST LIVERPOOL

GREGORY T. BRICKER, Mayor

OHIO, U.S.A. 43920

Phone (330) 385-3381

Fax (330) 385-3955

Chair Hillyer, Vice-Chair Grendel, Ranking Member Galonski and members of the House Civil Justice Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide Testimony on House Bill 613 – to abolish the East Liverpool Municipal Court in Columbiana County.

As Mayor of East Liverpool, I have the privilege and honor of leading my community towards revitalization by ensuring quality of life and robust economic development for our citizens. Building a prosperous future for East Liverpool means assessing our budget and understanding where cutting unnecessary costs can be considered.

Over the last decade, East Liverpool has had \$3 million diverted to the administrative costs of maintaining our own municipal court. This is \$300,000 annually, which I must emphasize no other city in the county is subject to these costs and frankly, it is imposing a hardship. As you know, every dollar matters in our communities. This is an important reason why I am supporting the consolidation of the East Liverpool Municipal Court into the Columbiana County Municipal Court.

I am sensitive to the fact that the East Liverpool Municipal Court has served our community for decades. The Ohio Supreme Court analyzed how the County Municipal Court's incoming caseload per judge would compare to all other municipal courts across Ohio with a full-time judgeship if the East Liverpool Municipal Court was consolidated. In their analysis, the Ohio Supreme Court determined the County Municipal Court would hear Civil, Criminal and Traffic Cases at the 62nd, 21st and 42nd percentiles, in total placing the workload at just the 36th percentile. Clearly, East Liverpool citizens will be served by the centrally located County Municipal Court.

In conclusion, the City of East Liverpool can only continue its revitalization efforts if it removes unnecessary financial hardships. Therefore, I encourage you to support House Bill 613.