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March 9, 2021

The Honorable Derek Merrin, Chair
House Ways & Means Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Opposition to HB 126

Dear Chairman Merrin,

On behalf of the Ohio Township Association (OTA), I am writing to express our opposition to House Bill 126, which requires local governments that contest property values to formally pass a resolution and notify property owners for each contest.

While townships only levy approximately six per cent of the property taxes statewide, the main source of township funding in Ohio is the property tax. Many townships do not file complaints or counter complaints at the Board of Revision, but this bill will impact the ability of those townships that do feel a need to challenge a tax valuation.

In current law, there are already specific timing and notification requirements that must be followed when contesting property valuation. The property value challenge process at the Board of Revision provides for notification to the property owner regarding the proceedings. Existing law requires a county auditor, within 30 days after a complaint is filed, to notify each property owner and political subdivision affected if the amount in question is at least \$17,500 and the property owner did not file the complaint. Then, the Board of Revision must notify the property owner and the entity that filed the complaint at least ten days prior to a hearing. As drafted, House Bill 126 will add another layer to this process.

Additionally, the bill specifically states that a Board of Revision is without jurisdiction to hear any complaint or counter-complaint if the notification requirements are not satisfied. The bill places compliance requirements on townships but leaves questions for enforcement of the notification requirements.

For these reasons, the OTA opposes HB 126. Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns with House Bill 126. Should you have any questions or concerns about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me at 614-863-0045.

Sincerely,

Marisa Myers
Director of Governmental Affairs