

ASHTABULA COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS  
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May 7, 2024

Ohio Civil Justice Committee

Dear Brett Hudson Hillyer, Chair,

We are writing to you today in full support of moving forward with legislation that benefits Ashtabula County. For the past few years, the Commissioners have been involved in efforts to consider the consolidation of the Eastern and Western County Courts and modify the territorial jurisdiction of the lower courts. The Commissioners have consulted with the lower court Judges, solicited a survey from the Ohio Supreme Court and conducted a public hearing on this matter. This proposal is widely applauded locally as an effort that will modernize the court operations, make it more efficient and lead to taxpayer savings.

This legislation which you have assisted us with in drafting will consolidate the Ashtabula County Eastern and Western County Courts effective January 1, 2031 and also modify the jurisdiction of the Conneaut Municipal Court effective January 1, 2025. The Ashtabula County Commissioners because of this legislation will then take the necessary actions to determine the location of the new unified court following a public discussion on the matter.

We respectfully request that you move forward with introducing this legislation and taking the actions necessary to have this bill signed into law. We welcome the opportunity to speak on behalf of this bill during any relevant committee hearings or public forums. We are prepared to provide additional insights, data, and perspectives that may assist in the understanding and support of this proposed legislation.

We firmly believe that this bill has the potential to make a positive impact on our county. Your support in introducing this bill and providing a platform for discussion is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to working together to address this important issue through legislative action.

Sincerely,

Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn Whittington'.

Kathryn Whittington, President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. P. Ducro IV'.

J. P. Ducro IV, Vice President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Casey Kozlowski'.

Casey Kozlowski, Commissioner