



# OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

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The Honorable Tim Schaffer, Chairman  
Environment & Natural Resources Committee  
Ohio Senate  
Ohio Statehouse - Senate Office Building  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: SB 110 HSTS Revisions

Dear Chairman Schaffer:

On behalf of the Ohio Township Association (OTA), I am writing to clarify our position on SB 110, which revises the household sewage treatment systems (HSTS) law.

As you read in our prepared testimony, the OTA supports SB 110 sponsored by Senator Niehaus. The OTA was afforded the opportunity to be a part of the Household Sewage and Small Flow On-Site Sewage Treatment System Study Commission that was created by Am. Sub. HB 119 of the 127<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The Study Commission was comprised of an extremely varied group of interested parties, who were charged with studying issues concerning HSTS and small flow on-site sewage treatment systems. Senate Bill 110 is a result of extensive meetings and the overall collaborative efforts of the Study Commission and its divergent membership.

The Ohio Township Association supports SB 110 because the bill protects township residents from unreasonable HSTS costs, increases property owners' options for sewage system use on their own lots, and increases local control to the greatest practical extent possible. The OTA believes that SB 110 will protect homeowner's rights to operate safe and affordable septic systems in Ohio.

On Wednesday the committee received written testimony from the OTA supporting SB 110 and the committee heard testimony from several northeast Ohio township officials in support of SB 100, sponsored by Senator Grendell. The OTA must take a broad perspective when analyzing any piece of legislation before the General Assembly. There are 1,308 townships across the state of Ohio and each has some unique aspect to its topography. What may be critical for a community with clay soil may not be as critical to a community with sandy soil. The OTA must take that information into account collectively and then make an informed decision, which in this case resulted in us supporting SB 110.

The OTA will continue to keep its township members fully apprised of the issues surrounding Senate Bills 110 and 100. Just as we have since the debate surrounding the passage of HB 231 in the 125<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to now, we will work to be a tireless advocate for townships and township residents on this issue.

I appreciate the opportunity to clarify this issue. Should you have any questions or concerns or wish to meet to further discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Cochran  
Executive Director

MHC:hcf

