



# OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

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**SB 110 HSTS Revisions (Niehaus)  
Proponent Testimony  
Senate State Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
May 6, 2009**

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. On behalf of the Ohio Township Association (OTA), I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you this morning as a proponent to SB 110, which revises the household sewage treatment system (HSTS) law that is scheduled to take effect July 1, 2009.

As we testified in 2004 when the original bill (HB 231) was before the legislature, it is extremely important that residents of Ohio be permitted to use septic systems. Townships that have not adopted limited home rule government under ORC Section 504 or are not a part of a regional sewer district do not have the ability to have their own sewer system. The growth of townships depends on the availability of septic systems.

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.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, the OTA is in a difficult position. The OTA supports SB 110, as the bill incorporates the Study Commission's recommendations. You may hear testimony from township officials in support of SB 100 and while the OTA may like some of the measures in SB 100, the OTA stands behind our commitment to SB 110, as the bill is a *compromise* between all of the interested parties who worked for many months to reach consensus on the provisions of this bill, which protects homeowners' rights to operate safe and affordable septic systems throughout Ohio.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you this morning as a proponent of SB 110. I would be happy to try and answer any questions you may have about the OTA's position.