

**HB 141 HSTS Revisions (Dodd)**  
**House Environment & Brownfield Development Committee**  
**June 17, 2009**

**Proponent Written Testimony**  
**Michael H. Cochran, Executive Director**

On behalf of the Ohio Township Association (OTA), I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 141, 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. House Bill 141 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 stands behind our commitment to HB 141, 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.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. The OTA supports HB 141 and we encourage the Committee to favorably report this legislation. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the Ohio Township Association's position, please feel free to contact me at (614) 863-0045.