



OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

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TO: Senators Widener, Jones & Skindell
Representatives Amstutz, Carey & Sykes
House Leadership
Senate Leadership

FR: Matthew J. DeTemple, Executive Director

RE: Conference Committee on Sub. HB 153

DT: June 16, 2011

On behalf of the Ohio Township Association (OTA), I am writing to share our position on the many items in Sub. HB 153 that impact townships and township government.

As we testified before the House and Senate committees, the OTA certainly understands the financial position of the state as our members are experiencing similar hardships. We recognize the difficult task the members of the General Assembly have in adopting a balanced budget.

Townships are willing to accept our share of the cuts; however, our concern is that Sub. HB 153 imposes a disproportionate share of the cuts on townships. While we applaud the efforts in both chambers to lessen those cuts, the fact remains that townships will be losing local government funds (LGF), estate tax revenue and reimbursements for utility deregulation and the elimination of the tangible personal property (TPP) tax simultaneously. Again, we appreciate the improvements made relative to the LGF and utility/TPP reimbursements but we respectfully request that as additional state resources may be realized, consideration be given to diverting a portion of those resources to continue to mitigate the disproportionate local government reductions proposed.

While we understand this budget is about austerity and shared sacrifice, both chambers realized the necessity and value of providing tools to assist in increasing flexibility in local government operations. The OTA supports the numerous tools and policy changes that are included in Sub. HB 153. We have attached a table outlining numerous provisions that impact townships. Included in the table is our position on these items and you will find that we are supportive of the majority of these provisions and we outline items in need of revision during this final stage of deliberation.

On behalf of the Ohio Township Association, we sincerely thank you for your consideration of our position on township matters in the budget. We look forward to continuing work on Sub. HB 153. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or OTA Director of Governmental Affairs Heidi M. Fought at (614) 863-0045.

