



## OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

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July 5, 2011

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The Honorable William Batchelder  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Sub. HB 153 Biennium Budget

Dear Speaker Batchelder:

On behalf of the Ohio Township Association (OTA), thank you for your hard work and consideration of our concerns with Sub. HB 153, the biennium budget. There are many items in Sub. HB 153 that impact townships and township government and, as in every budget bill, there are items that we like and dislike.

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.

We understand this budget is about austerity and shared sacrifice, and 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 that will assist townships in operating more efficiently and effectively. Some of those tools are listed below. To see a complete list of township-related items included in Sub. HB 153, please visit our website at [www.ohiotownships.org](http://www.ohiotownships.org).

- Grant broad authority for shared services between political subdivisions
- Permit the use of furlough days & modified work weeks for township employees
- Clarify public records laws regarding destruction of records
- Grant ability for two or more townships to merge
- Clarify trustee pay documentation requirements
- Permit township fiscal officer to allocate pay to all township funds depending on work performed
- Grant ability to form joint police districts between townships & municipalities
- Clarify ability to adopt and enforce cemetery rules
- Increase in township competitive bidding thresholds
- Increase in prevailing wage thresholds
- Expand uses for police & fire levies
- Require newspapers to establish a government rate
- Grant increased contracting authority for water & sewer districts formed under RC Chapter 6119

Again, we thank you for your hard work and consideration throughout the budget process. We look forward to working with you on other legislative matters during the rest of the 129th General Assembly. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding township issues in Sub. HB 153 or other township issues please do not hesitate to contact me or OTA Director of Governmental Affairs Heidi M. Fought at (614) 863-0045.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. DeTemple  
Executive Director

MJD:hf

"Serving Ohio since 1928"

