



Anderson Township

Anderson Center

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February 21, 2011

The Honorable Terry Blair, Chair
Local Government Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6111

Dear Chairman Blair:

It is my distinct honor to address you on behalf of over 45,000 residents of Anderson Township located in Hamilton County, Ohio, who are landowners of various parcels of real property in the Township held in the public interest. It is on their behalf that I am requesting your support of H.B. 50 which, if adopted, would give Anderson residents a voice in expedited type II annexation procedures.

A main tenet of our national and state constitutions is the right to own property- the right to acquire and hold a freehold estate in land. However, for purposes of certain current state statutes, political subdivisions that are seized of freehold estates in land are not considered "owners" unless an authorized agent of the jurisdiction signs a petition *in favor of* annexation. By otherwise excluding political subdivisions from the definition of landowners, the law denies those residents whose tax dollars were used to purchase public property the right to oppose an expedited annexation of their land.

Anderson Township taxpayers own more than 700 acres of Greenspace, land which was purchased with funds from a levy approved by the voters in 1990 for permanent preservation. In addition, voters approved levies to support the purchase of almost 500 acres of parkland, owned by the Anderson Township Park District.

Our voters have placed this land in the care of their local elected officials and, for this reason I respectfully request that you vote favorably on H.B. 50 to restore the rights of political subdivisions as landowners in type II annexation procedures. I'm sure you will agree that every property owner should have the right to choose whether or not they wish to join a petition to annex their land.

Respectfully yours,

Vicky L. Earhart
Township Administrator

C: Russell L. Jackson, Jr., Trustee President
Peggy D. Reis, Trustee Vice President
Kevin P. O'Brien, Trustee
Kenneth G. Dietz, Fiscal Officer
Matt deTemple, Ohio Township Association