



June 9, 2023

The Honorable Matt Huffman  
President of the Ohio Senate  
Ohio Senate  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear President Huffman:

On behalf of our Ohio agriculture groups, we thank you for your ongoing support of one of Ohio's top industries. This critical support continues to enable Ohio farmers to supply your fellow Ohioans and the world with quality, safe and cost-effective food as well as provide quality employment to many throughout our state. As you and your Senate colleagues continue to deliberate Ohio's biennial budget, our groups are collectively reaching out to ask you to consider a fix to property taxes for agricultural parcels, along with a few funding requests outlined below.

Our groups are concerned a recent change included in the senate version of the bill will increase property tax burdens on farmland property taxpayers. The senate version requires valuations of residential property to be based on an average of three years' data. It does not make this same change for agricultural property. We are not opposed to the change for residential property taxpayers, rather we ask that you support an amendment to treat agricultural property tax in a similar manner.

If this change is not made, local property tax burdens are very likely to shift to agriculture. At a time when agricultural property tax valuations are already forecast to increase by approximately 110%, this would have significant negative impacts on farmers throughout the state.

In addition, we also ask you to consider other items important to the agriculture community in this budget. We ask for you to restore funding that was cut in the senate version of the bill for the Ohio State Fair's 2050 Expo Fund, the H2Ohio program, and Ohio State University's Multi-Species Animal Learning Center. These projects are each essential to economic growth within their sector and have broad impacts for all Ohioans.

Soil and water conservation districts are also concerned that earmark language in the bill needs to be adjusted to allow for statewide implementation of the H2Ohio program. In it's current form, the majority of the funding for local districts is mandated to be delivered to just over a quarter of the state. We urge you to address this concern.

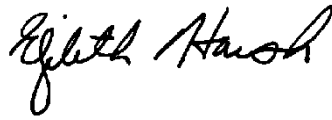
We also support a request by the Ohio State University's College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences request for funding of the operation of the Farm Financial Management and Policy Institute. The center, created in 2021 by Senate Bill 128, is a unified center aimed to address critical farm management and policy issues facing our industry.

We appreciate the work being done to present a fiscally responsible budget that is representative of all facets of Ohio. Many provisions such as the significant income and commercial activity tax reform being made in the senate budget make our state more competitive. Addressing these specific issues will strengthen the bill for Ohio's number one industry, and promote continued growth for Ohioans.

Thank you,



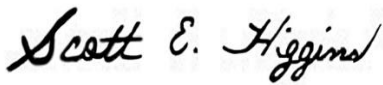
Christopher Henney  
Ohio AgriBusiness Association



Elizabeth Harsh  
Ohio Cattlemen's Association



Tadd Nicholson  
Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Assn



Scott Higgins  
Ohio Dairy Producers Association



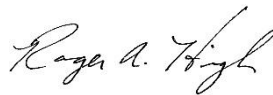
Adam Sharp  
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation



Kirk Merritt  
Ohio Soybean Association



Jim Chakeres  
Ohio Poultry Association



Roger High  
Ohio Sheep Improvement Assn.

Cc: Ohio Senate