



WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

HB 470

FEBRUARY 14, 2018

Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 470.

HB 470 would authorize a property tax levy specifically to fund lighting for roads and public places. In current law, municipalities are prohibited from placing a levy on a ballot that would specifically fund the maintenance, operation or installation of lighting on municipal roads or public spaces. Our members support the bill's permissiveness in allowing municipalities to choose whether or not placing lighting funding on the local ballot is the best option for their community.

Allowing lighting funding to be placed on the ballot lets voters know exactly how their tax dollars will be spent, keeping the decision-making truly local. Giving local voters the opportunity to vote on a lighting levy allows them to make the most informed decision about what they believe is most important to their community. In addition, levying property tax dollars specifically for lighting needs could allow a municipality's general fund revenues to be used for funding the many other crucial services municipalities provide for the general health, public safety and well-being of their community.

We appreciate that Representative Edwards has recognized the need for this permissive provision, and we urge your support of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League