



WRITTEN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HB 75

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Chari Shaffer, Vice Chair Lipps, Ranking Member Rogers and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you for the opportunity to write in opposition of HB 75, which would mandate that any local government contesting property values has to pass an authorizing resolution for each individual contest and that they notify the property owners of each contest. The bill not only poses challenging and unnecessary burdens to making tax challenges, but also creates an opportunity for those tax challenges to become politically-charged decisions.

Mandating that local legislative authorities not only pass a resolution for each property value contest, but also notify each property owner, is an unnecessary extra step that would not only slow down the process determining true property value, but would also slow down the local legislative process as a whole as those bodies review and vote upon each individual tax challenge instead of adopting and abiding by a blanket policy that guides all tax challenges. Local governments should operate effectively and efficiently. Legislation such as this has the ability to slow the local legislative process to a crawl, hobbling its ability to effectively serve local constituents.

Additionally, allowing local legislative authorities to pick and choose with tax challenges are approved will make an otherwise neutral procedure highly politicized. Not only would legislative bodies be authorized to play “favorites” among individual tax challenges, but property owners would then be in a position to pressure local authorities to dissuade them from challenging certain property values.

Not only does HB 75 burden local governments, but it seeks to make the process of property value contest murky and inequitable. Local legislative authorities seeking the true value of local property can best do so by adopting across-the-board policies to guide the process in order to govern effectively while keeping the process politically neutral. We strongly urge the opposition of HB 75. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Kent Scarrett
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