



**OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION**  
6500 Taylor Road, Ste. A  
Blacklick, OH 43004  
Phone: (614) 863-0045 Fax: (614) 863-9751  
[www.OhioTownships.org](http://www.OhioTownships.org)

## **AM. SUB. HB 2 TRANSPORTATION BUDGET CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

### **HB 318 (128<sup>th</sup> General Assembly) Correction:**

A technical correction was made to RC 5571.20 that clarified when a road must be taken off non-maintained status. When a compromise on the language was reached late in the 128<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the language was to include a provision that exempted non-certified roads from being removed from non-maintained status. This language was not put into HB 318 and so it is being corrected in HB 2. The OTA supports this change.

### **Residential Building Code Standards Language:**

The OTA strongly objects to this language (RC 3781.01, 3781.10 & 4740.14) being inserted into the transportation budget, as this language removes what little local control townships, counties and municipalities have with respect to residential building codes. Several years ago this law was amended to create a statewide code that could not be altered unless locals adopted regulations not addressed by the statewide code or not in conflict with the code (2005).

While the language in HB 2 keeps the ability of locals to adopt regulations not in conflict with the statewide code, it requires the locals to submit their proposed regulation to the Residential Construction Advisory Committee and then that committee would decide if the Board of Building Standards should adopt the regulation. The downside in this whole new process is that the majority of the members of the Residential Construction Advisory Committee are home builders and contractors that generally do not want any regulations placed on them by local governments, yet local government officials have a duty to protect the health and welfare of their residents.

The changes made in HB 2 should be considered and fully vetted in hearings so that both proponents and opponents can make their cases before members of the General Assembly. The OTA respectfully requests this language be removed from HB 2.

### **Ohio Commercial Vehicle Weight Task Force:**

During the Senate hearing process on HB 2, language was added creating the Ohio Commercial Vehicle Weight Task Force. (Section 756.10) The OTA does not object to the creation of this Task Force however, we respectfully request that a local government representative be added to this Task Force.

The outward migration to the unincorporated areas has caused an increase of traffic on township roads, especially by heavy commercial vehicles. Township roads are susceptible to heavy damage, as many township roads are not built to the same standards as state, county and large municipality roads.

A local government representative, like a representative from the County Engineers Association or the Ohio Township Association, could provide a local perspective for the Task Force that we feel, as currently written, is missing.