



OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Gerald Potter
7681 County Road 95
Ada, Ohio 46810

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Richard S. Williams
45842 Bultman Ridge Road
Oberlin, Ohio 44074

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Joseph I. Sykos
3325 Cliff Road
North Bend, Ohio 45052

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Larry Johns
15542 Bay Road
Wadsworth, Ohio 45896

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Raymond C. Amodeo
32 Township Road 115
Ollingo, Ohio 43917

C. Yvonne Beck
13-107 Road J, Lot 26
Monticello, Ohio 43043

Emil P. Deles
8346 Beach Road
Wadsworth, Ohio 44281

George F. Buccella
812 Carson-Sun Springs Road
Milverd Ridge, Ohio 44640

Michael Canfield
447 Township Road 356
Sullivan, Ohio 44880

Rebecca L. Carter
P.O. Box 427
Randolph, Ohio 44288

Richard C. Corman
216 W. Rivercrest Drive
Cohasset, Ohio 43614

Madlyn Hale
1130 Wollinger Road
Marion, Ohio 43302

Gregory A. Henthon
13000 State Route 725 W
Germantown, Ohio 45327

Steve Hansen
695 East Shriver Road
Stockport, Ohio 43287

Richard L. Kelley
13487 Township Road 88
Findlay, Ohio 43840

Saylord Morris
180 W. Delaware Street
Canton, Ohio 43013

Jackie Terwilliger
P.O. Box 38
Masineville, Ohio 46039

John H. Trowbridge
7000 County Road F
Dela, Ohio 43518

Daniel E. Whitnire
1450 Hidden Hemlock Drive
Austintown, Ohio 44610

Thomas E. Wilkey
3421 New London Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

MICHAEL H. COCHRAN, Executive Director
5989 East Livingston Avenue, Suite 110 • Columbus, Ohio 43232-8970
(614) 863-0045 • Fax (614) 863-9751
E-mail: OTAOhio@aol.com

June 13, 2000

The Honorable Mike DeWine
United States Senate
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Mike
Dear Senator Dewine:

On behalf of Ohio's 1309 townships, I urge your opposition to the takings legislation, S. 1028.

It is our understanding that the Senate Judiciary Committee, of which you are a member, is threatening to mark-up the bill without any hearings. At the very least, the Ohio Township Association requests that a hearing be held on S. 1028 before moving to mark-up. I know you have expressed concerns in the past with similar legislation (H.R. 1534 from the last Congress) and I thank you for your continued interest and concern with the takings issue as it relates to townships and local governments.

The Ohio Township Association strongly opposes S. 1028 (and similar legislation, H.R. 2372) which threatens the historic rights of local governments to control local land use and zoning decisions. The National Association of Towns and Townships (NATA), along with the National League of Cities and National Association of Counties, also opposes S. 1028 and H.R. 2372.

S. 1028 would unnecessarily increase the role of federal courts in local government land use disputes. Cases would be taken to federal court well before local governments and land owners have had the opportunity to consider development alternatives that would be acceptable to both parties. Specifically, S. 1028 would make takings claims ripe for litigation simply if a locality has denied a property owner's application and if an appeal has been pursued. The result would be more costly litigation against local governments, an increase on the burden of federal courts and an erosion of the ability of states like Ohio to develop a consistent land use policy.

Township officials are responsible for protecting the property values of all of their residents, protecting the environment and providing for the orderly development of their communities. S. 1028 prevents township officials from being able to provide these necessary and basic services to their township residents—nearly 45% of Ohio's population.

The Ohio Township Association believes that decisions affecting local communities are best made at the local level. S. 1028 directly contradicts this principle by allowing the federal courts to intervene prematurely in local land use disputes.

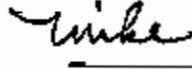
"Serving Ohio since 1928"



Enclosed, please find copies of a petition circulated by our national association at our 2000 Winter Conference in opposition to takings legislation. These petitions were signed by over 600 township officials attending the conference.

Again, I strongly urge you to oppose S. 1028. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I may be of further assistance.

Very truly yours,



Michael H. Cochran
Executive Director

MHC:cmf