



OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

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**Senate Bill 50 Revise 9-1-1 Law
Proponent Testimony
March 21, 2023
Financial Institutions and Technology Committee**

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair Hackett, Ranking Member Smith, and members of the Senate Financial Institutions and Technology Committee, my name is Kyle Brooks and I am the Director of Governmental Affairs for the Ohio Township Association (OTA). I am providing written testimony for the OTA's support of SB 50.

SB 50 would help the implementation of the Next Generation 9-1-1 system throughout the State, providing citizens and emergency responders with a faster, modern, and more resilient emergency communication system. NG 9-1-1 allows for the transmission of text, images, and video, while also pinpointing a more accurate location for the caller. These features provide citizens with a more optimal emergency response, improving situational awareness for emergency responders, and can potentially lead to saving more lives.

With 1,308 unique townships across the state each with their own characteristics, a one size fits all approach rarely is favorable. However, NG 9-1-1 also allows for communication between radios on the statewide system, which increases collaboration between jurisdictions and is critical for townships. Some townships have police departments, others utilize the County Sheriff's office. When emergency calls come in, with NG 9-1-1 these calls can more easily be transferred, allowing for better communication, better coordination, and increased collaboration.

The OTA supports the NG 9-1-1 Steering committee, helping provide oversight and guidance to individual communities to stand up the Next Gen system in an effective and efficient manner. The OTA also supports the increased fee from \$0.25 per service or device to \$0.70 per service or device. The user fee is for providing critical emergency services to residents.

The OTA urges support of SB 50. If you have any questions regarding the Ohio Township Association's position, you can contact myself or the OTA's Executive Director Heidi Fought at 614-863-0045. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Director of Governmental Affairs