



Department of
Agriculture

John R. Kasich | Governor

David T. Daniels | Director

**Sunset Review Committee
Testimony on the Ohio Farmland Preservation Advisory Board
Deputy Director John Schlichter
November 16, 2015**

Member of the Sunset Review Committee, my name is John Schlichter. I am a Deputy Director at the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on behalf of the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board. The Ohio Department of Agriculture is respectfully asking for re-authorization of the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board.

The objective for the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board is to provide guidance from a diverse group of stakeholders to the department in developing and implementing the Farmland Preservation program. The board is made-up of twelve voting members appointed by the Director of Agriculture.

The board meets twice a year: 1.) to make recommendations to the Director on the highest scoring easements to be purchased and 2.) to make recommendations to the Director on the local sponsoring organizations (townships, counties, soil and water conservation districts or non-profit organizations) to be certified as local sponsors and the amount of each organization's allocation. The board is also updated periodically by email and completes the ethics requirements. Total staff hours required is estimated to be 40-50 hours per meeting or 80-100 hours per year.

The Office of Farmland Preservation's funding for fiscal year 2016 and 2017 is \$310,000 per year. Actual expenditure in FY 2015 was \$311,917. Disbursements paid to farmland owners are approved through the Controlling Board.

Members of the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board do not receive compensation. By law they are reimbursed for mileage. This amounts to \$2,400 per year.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the Ohio Farmland Preservation Advisory Board