

ALLEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Sherrie L. Riebel
COUNTY CLERK

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January 19, 2012

To: House Committee on Taxation

Re: Testimony on House Bill 2176

From: Sherrie L. Riebel, Allen County Clerk

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

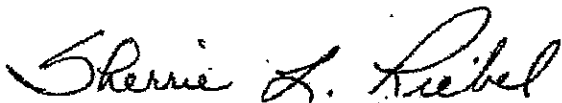
Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 2176.

Allen County has 45 different taxing entities that turn in budgets. We are one of the smaller counties; several have many more taxing entities than we do. We have never given any of our taxing entities grief if they request an extension. If August 25 would remain the deadline, the entities could continue to request extensions, but allow the rest of the budgets to be worked in the County Clerk's office.

101 County Clerks serve as Election Officials as well. We have elections every other year going on at the same time as we are working budgets. To allow entities the option to turn in budgets on September 25, would create a hardship in the already stretched thin offices. I don't know of any clerk's office that refused to accept a budget after the August 25 deadline. If each entity knew they had an extra month, we would still have some that would not be able to make that deadline, and then we would be even worse off than before. If anything, please move the date earlier. I personally feel that changing this date would cause a chain reaction and throw off all budget related dates for clerks and treasurers; especially getting tax statements out in a timely matter.

I urge the committee to report House Bill 2176 as unfavorable. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sherrie L. Riebel
Allen County Clerk