



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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David Sykes, Chair
Jeff Wenholz, Commissioner
Roy Drago Jr., Commissioner

March 1, 2023

Memorandum

To: The Public Safety Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee
Subject: Morrow County Request for Courthouse Construction Funds – Policy Option Package 122 (Senate Bill 5512)

Dear Chair and Members of the Subcommittee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Subcommittee on the funding request in the Chief Justice's Budget to provide funding for the construction of a new courthouse for Morrow County.

The County Commission is in favor of your approval of these funds. We will then move forward with plans to build a new courthouse facility.

In preparation of this once in a lifetime opportunity, we selected several promising building sites. Upon your positive approval of our request, we will engage DLR Group, an architectural and planning firm, to analyze each site for a recommendation as to the best location to site this important facility to our County. We have also been assured by our Finance Department that Morrow County has sufficient funds to meet the proposed matching monies required of the project.

A new courthouse is certainly needed since the current structure, while historical and elegant, is no longer large enough, or in the condition needed to continue as a viable court facility. It also does not have the security and other features required of a modern day courthouse. (Please refer to the Memorandum submitted to this committee by Daniel J. Hill, Presiding Judge and by Sheriff John Bowles for a detailed and extensive description of the deficiencies of the current courthouse building and the needs of a new one.)

We thank the Subcommittee for its work on making sure the judicial needs and services for the people of Morrow County are met. We ask that you please support the request from Morrow County for this important construction project.

Respectfully,

A blue ink signature of David Sykes, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a cursive 'S'.

David Sykes
Chair

A blue ink signature of Jeff Wenholz, written in a cursive style.

Jeff Wenholz
Commissioner

A blue ink signature of Roy Drago Jr., consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a cursive 'D'.

Roy Drago Jr.
Commissioner