

MMA Testimony on HB 4976 (Tedder)

House Tax Policy Committee

9/27/2017

Mr. Chair, thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of your bill, HB 4976. I am Mike Johnston, VP of Government Affairs at MMA.

We truly appreciate you bringing this bill forward to provide opportunities for Treasury resolve tax disputes, when it makes sense to resolve them, without the expense and administrative burden of the judicial path. We view this bill as significant regulatory reform, that brings common sense to the administrative process in Treasury.

Currently, when informal conversations occur between Treasury and taxpayers regarding a dispute, the conversation are essentially an early discovery process for both sides as they build their cases for the court hearing. That process is not an efficient use of administrative resources, for either state government or taxpayers. When clearly reasonable solutions are possible, the State Treasurer should have the authority to settle disputes, and this bill provides that opportunity.

I want to thank our friends at Treasury for taking on this issue and working diligently to craft a solution. We raised this issue with Treasury about a year and half ago, and they have been great partners in this effort.

Mr. Chair, we appreciate your leadership in eliminating unnecessary bureaucratic red-tape and allowing common sense to prevail.