

# Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert



**August 4, 2017**

To print this alert as a PDF, [please click here](#).

## Recent Attorney General's Opinion

### [2017-024 Property Tax Exemption](#)

*Syllabus:*

1. A board of township trustees may adopt a resolution pursuant to R.C. 5709.73(B) exempting from real property taxation a percentage of further improvements to a parcel of real property that is already subject to a tax exemption under R.C. 5709.73(B).
2. A board of township trustees of a limited home rule township may not enter into an agreement with an owner of a parcel of real property that is exempt from real property taxation pursuant to R.C. 5709.73(B), whereby the owner makes payments to the township in lieu of taxes under terms that differ from the provisions of R.C. 5709.74 and R.C. 5709.75.



## Recently Introduced Legislation

[HB 281 BROADBAND EXPANSION](#) (Carfagna) To establish the residential broadband expansion program within the Development Services Agency to award matching grants for last mile broadband expansion in municipal corporations and townships and to make an appropriation.

[HB 312 POLITICAL SUBDIVISION SPENDING](#) (Schuring, Greenspan) Regarding use of credit cards and debit cards by political subdivisions.

[HB 314 SAFETY TAX CREDIT](#) (Schaffer) To allow an income tax credit for law enforcement officials who purchase safety or protective items to be used in the course of official law enforcement activities.

## USDA Rural Broadband Loan Program

Solicitations for the USDA rural broadband loan and loan guarantee program have been released. You can find more about the program [here](#). Additionally, click [here](#) for a two-page summary of the program.



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development



## Federal Update

Last week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) published in the Federal Register their proposed rule to repeal the Obama-era Clean Water Rule, also known as the "waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt released and signed the proposed rule on June 27, a month before official publication in the Federal Register. Public comments will be accepted for 30 days starting tomorrow (Docket No. EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0203).

Repeal of the Clean Water Rule is the first step in a two-step process to rescind and rewrite the rule. Step two is to propose a new rule consistent with Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia's opinion in the Rapanos case. A February 28 Executive Order sign by President Trump directs EPA and the Corps to consider interpreting the term "navigable waters" consistent with Justice Scalia's opinion in Rapanos, which specifies that CWA jurisdiction includes relatively permanent waters and wetlands with a continuous surface connection to relatively permanent waters. In contrast, when the Obama Administration crafted its WOTUS rule, they used the Rapanos opinion of Justice Anthony Kennedy, which pointed to a "significant nexus" test for wetland connections to navigable waters under the CWA, thereby broadening the definition.

According to the Trump Administration's first Unified Agenda, which outlines the Administration's plans for regulatory action over the next year, the Administration plans to propose a new WOTUS rule by December 2017. NATaT is engaged in the re-write process through our work with EPA's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.



The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) is seeking entries for the 2018 Safety Innovation Awards. Winners will receive \$1,000 to \$6,000 in cash awards and be recognized at the 2018 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo. Your innovation must demonstrate reduction in safety or ergonomic risk factors, or occupational health exposures. The deadline to apply is Sept. 30, 2017. Learn more and apply [here](#) today!

## Do You Have Unwanted Pesticides?

The Ohio Department of Agriculture will sponsor collections for farmers who want to dispose of unwanted pesticides in August. One is scheduled for Aug. 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Delaware County Fairgrounds in Delaware. The second is set for Aug. 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the OSU Extension Putnam County Office in Ottawa. The collection service is free, but only farm chemicals will be accepted.

### Ohio Township Association

6500 Taylor Road, Suite A, Blacklick, OH 43004  
614.863.0045 | [www.OhioTownships.org](http://www.OhioTownships.org)  
fought@ohiotownships.org

