

▶ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tax millage requests are getting to be too much for residents of Bedford

During the last few months in Bedford Township, we have been overwhelmed with tax levies and assessments. We just defeated a \$70 million school levy by a large margin after the taxpayers reviewed the millage and found it excessive and the selling points that were put out by the current school board concerning the condition of our schools were inaccurate and in some cases fabricated.

The turmoil due to this millage request brought about the creation of the Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility, a group

of taxpayers concerned about inefficient elected representatives who seem to think that the taxpayers have an unlimited amount of money for them to waste. After the school levy came the library levy that was also defeated. Then the township board got into the act and decided that they would place a \$75 assessment on each parcel of property in Bedford without a vote of the taxpayers. This proposal was met with the same type of outrage as the \$70 million school levy and, after a few meetings with hostile taxpayers, the township board scrapped

the proposal

Now, the Bedford school board has decided that they still want money from the taxpayer and they have put a half-mill levy on the ballot that they claim will only be used for building maintenance but the ballot language does not restrict the usage. Recently, we had special assessments placed on our tax bills for ditch cleaning and now the Monroe County Community College is requesting a one-mill levy that if passed will be on our tax bills in perpetuity. That means it is forever and will not ever end.

I retired 18 years ago and my pension is actually less than it was when I retired but I have to find a way to cope with a rising cost of living unlike our elected people who just go after the taxpayers when they come up with a folly of some sort that needs financing. And, by the way, between the \$70 million school levy and the township road assessment plan our elected officials spent nearly \$50,000 of taxpayer money to promote these two ideas. Is that wasteful spending or what?

**George E. Sailer
Temperance**