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I am writing in opposition to HB 625. I believe local governments are best equipped to deal with issues pertaining to solid waste, including single-use plastic containers.

I live in Dayton, which maintains programs for picking up residential waste, including recyclable products. The Montgomery County Solid Waste District maintains a facility for collection of disposables, and also runs an education and outreach program. Previously I lived in Green Township, Hamilton County, where the trustees managed agreements with two vendors to pick up residential waste and recyclables. Waste disposal is a local issue best addressed by local elected officials.

Certainly more needs to be done. I know from experience that the Little Miami River is often littered with plastic containers that often are collected by volunteer organizations. Recently I participated in a volunteer cleanup event at Eastwood Lake in Dayton, and picked up a considerable amount of plastic along the lakeshore. It is up to each county, township and municipality to seek waste disposal solutions.

Ohio is too diverse a state for the General Assembly to enact a one-size-fits-all solution to solid waste disposal. The state does not have unlimited waste storage capacity. More than 100 local government jurisdictions in the United States have enacted regulations that have been highly effective in reducing pollution. The same approach must be taken in Ohio. I urge the House Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee to defeat HB 625.

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