

Ohio House of Representatives  
Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor Committee  
Ed Barker's Opponent Testimony on HB 42  
May 9, 2017

Dear Chair Young, Vice Chair DeVitis, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and Members of the House Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testify in opposition to HB 42, relating to the prohibition of unsafe used tires on specified motor vehicles. My name is Ed Barker. My family owns Barker's Towing/Recovery and Tires- a family owned business with two locations that has been selling tires for 28 years.

Used tires have been the biggest part of our family's income through the years. We are in a rural community and folks just don't always have the money to buy new tires with their over-inflated prices. Lots of folks will only have the money to buy one used tire at a time. We all know that in the last 7 or 8 years, our economy has fallen heavily and times have really tightened up for the common man. As far as "used tires" being safe- yes, they are 100% safe. Think of it this way: if a person buys a used tire to replace a bad tire isn't that better than them to continue running the bad tire because they can't afford a new one?

In the last couple of months, I have actually had two different occasions of a new tire having a knot on the sidewall as it was being inflated, with brand new tires. We get 90 percent of our used tires from impounded cars and wrecked cars that don't get picked up from police impounds. All these tires come straight off the road, all are aired up on rims, tread depth checked, and are visually inspected. 28 years strong and we have had no problems from selling used tires, but if this bill were to pass it will have a strong impact on the general public financially as well as our family business and our employees and their families.

We have worked hard for many years to build our business and this bill would devastate our income and the future of our business. My Dad passed away 2 years ago and he was our founder. Dad always said if we wouldn't put it on our mother's car then it's not going on someone else's mother's car. You treat folks as you expect to be treated. We sell quality used tires as well as new tires, but the new tire sales are just not there like they used to be, due to a rough economy. Used tires are a wonderful alternative. I ask that you please consider not passing this bill.

Thank you Chair Young and all committee members for your time, your kind consideration of my comments, and for allowing me to share our concerns about the prohibiting the installation of some used tires.

Thank you,

Ed Barker