

CUYAHOGA COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH

YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 2
Barry Grisez, Supervisor – Cuyahoga County Board of Health
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
May 2, 2017

Chairman Landis, Vice-Chair Hagan and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

I am Barry Grisez and I am the Supervisor of Solid Waste and related programs at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 2. I would also like to thank Senator Hite for his sponsorship of this bill and ongoing effort to improve upon it. I am here today to specifically support the proposed revisions to Chapter 3714 of the Ohio Revised Code. It is the mission and responsibility of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health to protect health, safety, and environment, and this legislation supports those principles.

For the past twenty (20) years, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health has been a delegated authority of the Ohio EPA to license and inspect construction and demolition debris landfills to not only protect the environment, but also to ensure the health and safety of the individuals living, working, and enjoying the areas surrounding these facilities. Over time, the industry has evolved as emphasis has shifted from permanent disposal of construction and demolition debris (C&DD) to reuse of this material through recycling and returning it to market as a commodity. Expanding the description of construction and demolition debris facilities to include businesses that also process material will allow the Ohio EPA and delegated authorities across Ohio to keep pace with advances made in the industry and to help protect our communities.

Because the language in ORC 3714 is specific to landfills only, the majority of these processing facilities are currently unregulated. Senate Bill 2 modifies ORC 3714 and grants the Ohio EPA the authority to create and implement regulations providing oversight of C&DD processing facilities statewide. This statutory update will include such requirements as pre-operational plan approval as well as standards for operating and maintaining the facility. Senate Bill 2 also ensures that the owner of the site is financially bound to the site.

Within the jurisdiction of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, there are currently four (4) C&DD processing facilities that have been in operation for a minimum of two (2) years. The amount of mixed, or unprocessed, C&DD on hand at any given time can vary greatly per facility. In addition to these established facilities, new “recycling” operations have opened for business seemingly overnight. The concern with these unregulated facilities is that if operations cease, the site becomes the responsibility of state and local authorities. This concern has become a reality as a result of recent enforcement action taken against one of the processing facilities in our jurisdiction. Senate Bill 2 will require financial assurance be in place for all C&DD processing facilities to help offset the cost associated with proper closure.

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health is in strong support of the proposed changes to ORC 3714 as stated in Senate Bill 2. The implementation of some common-sense regulations demonstrates an ongoing commitment to effective public health policy statewide and brings consistency to an otherwise unregulated industry.

Thank you again for the opportunity to address the committee. I would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

5550 Venture Drive ♦ Parma, Ohio 44130

Direct: 216-201-2000 ♦ Fax: 216-676-1311 ♦ TTY: 216-676-1313 ♦ www.ccbh.net

Terrence M. Allan, R.S., M.P.H. Health Commissioner