



Written Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 2

Submitted by Diane Bickett, Executive Director, Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

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Dear Chairman Landis, Vice-Chair Hagan and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of Senate Bill 2. This legislation would address the serious problems being created by unregulated construction and demolition debris (C&DD) processing facilities in Cuyahoga County and support businesses that legitimately recycle this material.

Currently, the State of Ohio regulates C&DD landfills but not C&DD recycling or processing facilities. While there are some legitimate C&DD recycling facilities operating in Cuyahoga County, there are other facilities that claim to be recycling but are really just stockpiling debris, creating hazardous open dumps and undermining the legitimate recycling industry.

One particular C&DD dump site, located in East Cleveland, has encroached to the rear property lines of homeowners on a residential street. Reports of health issues and loss of quality of life have been regularly reported by angry residents since the facility opened approximately two years ago. Debris piles now stand upwards of 30' high and are growing while little more than wood is being recycled.

Most of the debris being accepted at this and other sham recycling facilities is debris resulting from the demolition of vacant homes. Demolition contractors cut costs by taking the debris to these sham recycling sites because they undercut the disposal fees that legitimate recyclers and landfills must charge in order to operate properly.

The remediation of these sites will eventually fall to local governments using public funds after these operators have made their money at the expense of the community and then flee or file for bankruptcy. We have examples of this happening here in Cleveland. The cleanup costs can be in the millions and sufficient public resources do not exist.

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District supports Senate Bill 2 because we need regulation of C&DD facilities to protect impacted residents and the environment and to increase recycling, standardize industry practices and provide needed funding for clean ups by requiring financial assurance.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

