



OEHA

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SB 2 Proponent Testimony
Ohio Environmental Health Association, Chuck DeJonckheere
Before the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Chairman Al Landis
May 2, 2017

Chairman Landis, Vice-Chair Hagan, Ranking Member O'Brien and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide proponent testimony today on Senate Bill 2 sponsored by Senator Cliff Hite.

My name is Chuck DeJonckheere, and I am the chair of the solid waste technical committee of the Ohio Environmental Health Association (OEHA). OEHA's membership includes over 500 public health sanitarians, working in local health departments, state agencies, colleges and universities and other entities. OEHA supports Senate Bill 2 as it works to address emerging issues related to the Construction and Demolition Debris (C&DD) industry, and specifically, it will establish regulatory oversight of C&DD "processing" facilities.

Over the past ten years, our members have worked with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to address these types of issues, however without legislative authority and common sense regulations, these efforts have not been successful. Across Ohio, landfills are running out of space, and programs such as LEED certifications, have provided incentives related to the recycling of building materials, but have not legitimized the practice. Many companies have worked to manage the recycling of these materials, and some have been able to do so properly, but unfortunately some have not. There have been cases in all regions of the state where materials have been stockpiled without being processed properly, which has resulted in public nuisance situations. Provisions in this bill will establish necessary financial assurance and regulatory oversight of these types of operations.

Further provisions in Senate Bill 2 will allow property access and use existing state waste funds to investigate sites used for the disposal of solid waste and C&DD and remediate situations where there is a substantial threat to public health, safety, or the environment.

Senate Bill 2 aims to address these nuisance conditions and provide the proper authority to Ohio EPA and local health departments to address these issues. Through this legislation, and the subsequent rule making process, Ohio EPA and local health departments will have the necessary tools to encourage the recycling of these materials in a responsible manner that promotes and protects public health.

Once again, Chairman Landis and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. At this time I am available to answer any questions the committee may have.