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**HB 65 Proponent Testimony**  
**Presented by Judy Dudte, Englefield Oil Company**  
**Before the House State and Local Government Committee**  
**Chair Marlene Anielski**  
**March 7, 2017**

Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Bishoff and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide proponent testimony today on House Bill 65. My name is Judy Dudte, and I am the Director of Food Service for The Englefield Oil Company. Englefield Oil operates 123 Duchess Shoppes convenience stores throughout Ohio and West Virginia, and we pride ourselves on serving safe food to our customers at all of our locations.

In an operation as large as ours, we understand the importance of food safety, and we understand the importance of identifying and eliminating critical violations. This is vital to keeping the food we serve our customer safe and reducing their chances of becoming sick. Taking a risk-based approach to food safety allows our facilities, and the health inspectors that inspect our facilities, to focus on these critical items and keep our customers safe.


We support House Bill 65 sponsored by Representative Brian Hill because it allows food operators to work together with local health departments in the state to protect and promote food safety rather than the departments implementing a heavy-handed regulatory approach. If inspectors are forced to find as many violations as possible rather than taking a risk-based approach, it will force our facilities to focus time and resources on items that are less likely to make our customers sick. This approach removes any semblance of common sense within the regulatory process.

Our company understands that the food code is the food code and that we are required to comply with the code. However, we also understand that critical violations are more likely to cause foodborne illnesses and will not only negatively affect our company, but more importantly, our customers. We do not want less stringent inspections within our facilities. Doing so would not benefit our company. We are asking for our local health inspectors to be allowed to conduct risk-based inspections in our facilities and assist us with eliminating critical violations that will make people sick.

We support House Bill 65 because it allows the regulated community to focus on critical violations and work collaboratively with health departments and inspectors across the state to protect our company's name and keep our customers safe and healthy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding this legislation. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

  
Judy Dudte,

Director of Food Service for Englefield Oil Co.