

**HB 65 Proponent Testimony  
Presented by Brent Dewey  
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 Brent Dewey, and I am the owner and operator of The Trout Club, which is located in Newark.

As a small business owner, I am supportive of House Bill 65 because it will accomplish two important items. It will prevent the overregulation of small businesses, and it will improve food safety in Ohio.

I have taken the risk of purchasing and renovating an old facility, and turned it into a dining destination in Newark. During the renovation process, I worked closely with the health inspectors at my local health department. They provided me and my team with guidance regarding the layout of our kitchen, and the type of equipment we would need to realize our vision. This collaborative relationship not only made it easy for a small business owner to get his business off the ground, but it also allowed us to build a facility that was designed to produce safe food.

Since we initially opened, my business suffered a fire that destroyed the majority of the building. Once again, we were able to work with our local health department to find the most efficient way to rebuild the kitchen so that it would allow us to implement proper food safety principles. This is how the system should work. Small business owners should be able to work with government agencies to ensure they are in compliance, and the agencies should be allowed to work with owners to assist them with gaining compliance.

House Bill 65 will allow local health inspectors to establish this collaborative relationship while implementing risk-based inspections. I understand that our facility must be in compliance with the food code, but I also understand that inspectors should not be forced to take an overburden some approach to enforce the code.

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