

Committees:

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SPONSOR TESTIMONY FOR HOUSE BILL 766

Thank you Chairwoman Anielski, Vice Chairman Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes and members of the House State and Local Government Committee for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 766.

I am grateful for the opportunity to share and ultimately ask for your support of H.B. 766, a simple but a very important piece of legislation before you today.

House Bill 766 would provide a definition for the term of “junk watercraft vessel or outboard motor” in Ohio Revised Code and gives local authority over junk watercraft similar to current authority over junk vehicles. This legislation pertains to only watercraft or vessels that are left in the open.

As outlined in my legislation a junk watercraft vessel or outboard motor is defined as any vessel that fits all of the below requirements.

1. Three years old or older
2. It is apparently inoperable.
3. It has a fair market value of \$1,500 or less

The idea for this legislation arose as I travelled throughout my district this summer. Within 1 week, I was approached by 4 different property owners asking me to address this problem as they had reached out to their township trustees and informed them that nothing could be done to address the issue.

Today’s fiberglass boats, although structurally compromised, do not decompose like older boats constructed only of wood. These watercraft are left to decay in many communities throughout our state. Over time, these boats become an eyesore and degrade property values.

This legislation would simply give local authorities the same tools to address this problem as they would a junk vehicle that rusts away in someone’s yard.

Thank you for your consideration and I am happy to answer any further questions at this time.