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Representative Steven Arndt
Ohio House of Representatives, 89th House District

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Ginter, and Ranking Member Kelly, and members of the House State and Local Government committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 74. This legislation 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 past 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. Fiberglass 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. The legislative intent of this bill is the same as that of House Bill 766 introduced in the 132nd General Assembly.

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Ginter, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the House State and Local Government committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 74. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.