



OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

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May 1, 2019

The Honorable Scott Wiggam, Chair
State and Local Government Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: HB 74 Junk Watercraft

Chairman Wiggam:

On behalf of the Ohio Township Association (OTA), I am writing in support of House Bill 74, which would define the term "junk watercraft vessel or outboard motor" and give townships authority over junk watercraft similar to current authority over junk vehicles.

Under current law, townships have the permissive authority to deal with junk motor vehicles in their jurisdiction and there is a clear definition of what would be considered a junk motor vehicle. Unfortunately, there is not the same authority relating to junk watercraft. For those townships that are geographically along or near rivers or lakes, junk watercraft are just as prevalent as junk motor vehicles. The language in HB 74 would clearly define a junk watercraft vessel or outboard motor as any vessel that fits all of these requirements:

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

A township would have to follow all applicable notification processes and open meeting laws when seeking to remove a junk watercraft or outboard motor.

Chairman and members of the committee, the OTA urges your support of HB 74 and encourages the committee's favorable report of this legislation. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this legislation or our position on the matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. DeTemple
Executive Director

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