

Proponent testimony for HB 242  
June 12, 2019

Chairman Wiggam, and honorable members of the State and Local Government Committee

My name is Steve Grossman. I am Acting Chair of Bexley's Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee. Prior to retiring from the state of Ohio 18 months ago, I had been the Assistant Director of the Environmental Protection Agency during the 1980's and for the next 29 years, I was Executive Director of the Ohio Water Development Authority where I oversaw awarding approximately \$13 billion dollars of loans to local governments for projects related to water pollution control, water supplies, solid waste and brownfields remediation

As Mayor Kessler has noted the City has worked closely with the largest distributors of single use plastics in Bexley as well as our Chamber of Commerce to develop an acceptable solution.

Mayor Kessler has pointed out that Ohio, utilizing a blend of existing state programs, private sector initiatives and local government programs has not been successful in eliminating the overwhelming problem that we face from the plastic problem. While we applaud such corporations as Aldi that has eliminated plastic bags and charge for the use of a paper bag and Kroger's for moving towards the elimination of plastic bags from their stores, much more is needed. Bexley's legislation is an effort in this direction

Personally, I agree with the sponsors' statement that adopting statewide uniformity for auxiliary containers is a way to protect against over regulation, support manufacturing jobs and uphold consumer freedom. I therefore encourage this committee to follow Bexley's example and work with all interested parties to develop statewide legislation that will address the plastic problem that Mayor Kessler has presented.

During the testimony that our city council heard from Bexley residents as it deliberated over its ordinances, they heard from several children of all ages, who supported these ordinances and expressed grave concerns for their futures about all the pollution that is engulfing our planet. HB 242 is not the way to go.

I encourage each of you as well as your colleagues who currently are considering supporting HB 242, to let your school age children, your school age grand children, as well as other school age children know what you are considering in supporting this legislation before you vote.

It is their future that your vote will effect.

Thank you, chairman Wiggam and Honored Representatives for your consideration.