

HB 242

06/11/2019

Dear Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair Ginter, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the Committee,

I am lucky to have started a vertical garden business here in Columbus, Ohio. I was inspired by the entrepreneurial spirit of this city, which would be stifled under the passing of HB 242.

If the argument is purely business, then my most pressing point- beyond the proven disastrous environmental consequences that *still* falls on deaf ears- is that forbidding the public option to ban plastic will reduce the innovation that creates small businesses and jobs. My own company's goal is to clean the air we breathe through the use of green walls. With less plastic, myriad opportunities arise for small business owners in Ohio to capitalize on the zero-waste trend that is imperative to our collective future. Think of every local company that you know and cherish. This bill is telling them to stop trying to solve our problems. This bill will be a blanket statement that reads, "We don't care if you want to help our community."

I have hope for Ohio, but when you strip away the right of people to govern themselves, it makes me want to take my business to another state. We need to prevent Ohio from further ingraining itself into the sad label of "flyover country" that chooses big money and personal opinion over the will of the people. I started my business here because we need to be a beacon of futuristic thinking in the Midwest, or we will be lag behind while our future generations continue to plan their exit. I don't want that for Ohio.

We KNOW how bad plastic is. Even SWACO is aiming to reduce waste and encourage composting, despite it being counter-productive to their profits. Let people at least have a choice, otherwise the trend of anti-democratic legislation will continue at the peril of American values and morality.

Thank you,

Katie Aukerman
Green Street Design LLC
(813)-758-1187