

Written testimony opposing HB242
Mary Ellen Berger
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Chair Wiggam, Vice Chair Ginter, Ranking Member Kelly and members of the Committee,

My name is Mary Ellen Berger and I live in Columbus, OH. I am not able to testify at this week's hearing on HB242 so I am submitting written testimony on this bill below.

I am strongly opposed to HB242 and I honestly cannot believe that this legislation is being introduced again. The rest of the world is moving to *ban* single use plastics, and this legislation would do the opposite. Yesterday Canada announced that it will ban single-use plastics, *joining a global movement*.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/10/world/canada/single-use-plastic-ban.html>.

People around the world - and in Ohio- are aware of the dangers of plastic in our bodies and the huge problem of plastic waste. This is in the news every day, with graphic photos of dead animals and waves of plastic washing up on beaches. Only 9% of plastic is even recycled- in OH most of it ends up in our landfills or waterways. We all know how bad plastic is for our environment and our health so why would any legislator want to promote plastic? For the same reason some voted to bail out First Energy - *money*.

Please know that Ohioans can see through all of this. Our health and our communities are now being threatened. We do not want more plastic waste, or more fracking to make plastic. We do not want a petrochemical hub or cancer. We do not want dirty coal and old nuclear plants. We do not want contaminated water and toxic air pollution. We do not want more climate change and dangerous, extreme weather.

What we do want is clean air and water, and a healthy future for our children and grandchildren. We want clean, renewable energy and good jobs in a thriving, green economy. And we want legislators who represent us, not their corporate donors. Everyone cannot testify or send in comments, but we can all vote.

I urge you to do your research on the problem of plastic waste and to Vote NO on HB242.

Thank you,

Mary Ellen Berger