



## Written Opponent Testimony on Senate Bill 222

Submitted by Diane Bickett, Executive Director, Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District

Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee

December 3, 2019

Dear Chairman Manning, Vice-Chair Brenner, Ranking member Maharath and members of the Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee, I am submitting this written testimony in opposition of SB 222. This legislation was introduced to prevent Cuyahoga County from implementing its ban on the use of disposable plastic bags. It would also prevent all other local governments from enacting their own bans, fees or taxes on auxiliary containers. This law would restrict home rule authority and is at odds with Ohio's waste reduction goals and laws.

SB 222 conflicts with Ohio Solid Waste Law (1988) and the State of Ohio Solid Waste Management Plan (2009) which were adopted to ensure that Ohio reduces its reliance on landfilling and increases waste reduction and recycling activities statewide. The State Solid Waste Plan was developed from Ohio law ([ORC Section 3734.50](#)) which states that "the director of environmental protection, with the advice of the materials management advisory council created in section 3734.49 of the Revised Code, shall prepare a state solid waste management plan to do all of the following: (A) reduce reliance on the use of landfills for management of solid wastes; (B) establish objectives for solid waste reduction, recycling, reuse, and minimization....".

Ohio has established State goals to reduce waste, yet SB 222 would prohibit fees and bans on single use containers which are a major source of solid waste statewide. SB 222 would prevent a locally adopted waste reduction measure from being enacted in Cuyahoga County. This year, Cuyahoga County Council passed Ordinance 02019-0005 to implement a Disposable Bag Ban. Cuyahoga County's bag ban is consistent with the ratified Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Plan and the State Solid Waste Management Plan because it would reduce disposable plastic bag waste in landfills and in the environment. It would also reduce local governments' landfill disposal costs, litter removal costs and operational costs caused by plastic bags at the recycling facilities that sort curbside recyclables.

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District fully supports eliminating disposable bags from the waste stream to reduce the environmental, financial and health impacts caused by disposable plastic bags in our region. I encourage this committee to vote against SB 222 to protect the rights of local lawmakers and to support state and local waste reduction efforts. Curbing plastic pollution will have a major positive impact in Cuyahoga County as similar efforts have had in the many cities, states and nations that have also enacted bag bans and fees.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

