

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date Dec 2, 2019

Name: David Rossini, Acting Director

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Telephone: (303) 801-0582

Organization Representing: Ohio PIRG

Testifying on Bill Number: Senate bill 222

Testimony: Verbal Written Both

Testifying As: Proponent Opponent Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist? Yes No

Special Requests: N/A

Written testimony is a public record and may be posted on the Ohio Senate's website

WRITTEN TESTIMONY:

Ohio Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee
December 2, 2019

We, Ohio PIRG, write to oppose Senate Bill 222. We support the regulation of bags and auxiliary containers, especially those made of plastic and designed for single-use. Nothing we use for a few minutes should pollute our communities and threaten public health for centuries.

Single-use plastic waste continues to pollute our state, as evidenced by the 22 million pounds of plastic waste that enter our Great Lakes each year. Discarded bottle caps, plastic bags, foam cups, straws and other single-use plastic products line their shorelines. Studies have shown some of this plastic waste ends up in food, water, and our own bodies, exposing us to fragments containing carcinogens and endocrine disrupting chemicals

We have an opportunity to be better. Already, Orange Village, Bexley and Cuyahoga County have passed bans on specific single-use plastic products. We should be empowering more cities and counties to do the same in order to build a healthier, safer Ohio.