



December 3, 2019

**TO: SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY & VETERANS AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE**

FROM: CHERYL SUBLER, CCAO MANAGING DIRECTOR OF POLICY

**RE: OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 222 - RESTRICTION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
ADDRESSING AUXILIARY CONTAINERS**

On behalf of the County Commissioners Associations Ohio (CCAO), I am writing to express our assessment or other charge on auxiliary containers. Specifically, this legislation would impact Cuyahoga County, which already has passed legislation, and could apply to Summit County, if they choose to take action in the future.

First, let me provide a little background on the charter form of county government. In 1933, the Ohio Constitution was amended to specifically authorize the adoption of county charters after the establishment of a county charter commission. Since then updates have been made to the Constitution in 1957 and 1978. Ohio currently has two counties whose voters have approved a charter form of government. Summit County's charter was adopted in 1979, and the electors of Cuyahoga County adopted their new form of county government November 2009, thereby taking effect January 2011.

Cuyahoga County Council has recognized that 319 million plastic bags a year are used in their county, and 95 percent end up in the lake or landfills where they will sit for years contaminating the land and the lake. Thus, Council took action to protect their local resources. They approved legislation banning bags that are not 100 percent recyclable or made from at least 40 percent of recycled material. However, exemptions are included, such as for bags for restaurant leftovers or carry-out orders, bags consumers bring with them, or bags for newspapers, dry-cleaning, meat and other items. The ban will be enforced by the county's Department of Consumer Affairs. First-time violators will be subject to a written warning. Second violations will carry a civil fine of up to \$100 and subsequent violations will carry fines up to \$500. Violations are defined as each day a retailer doesn't comply with the ordinance.

We ask that lawmakers respect local control and the role of these local policymakers in protecting the resources that make their community attractive. These decisions should remain in the hands of local officials.

Again, CCAO is opposed to Senate Bill 222 and respectfully asks for your consideration. Thank you.