

2020 - 2021

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May 19, 2020

The Honorable Nathan H. Manning, Chair
Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs Committee
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: HB 242 Auxiliary Containers

Dear Chairman Manning:

On behalf of the Ohio Township Association (OTA) and the Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships (Coalition), I am writing to express our opposition to House Bill 242, which would prohibit limited home rule townships from imposing a tax or fee on auxiliary containers. The proposed legislation would apply to thirty-three townships that have adopted the limited home rule form of government pursuant to Revised Code Ch. 504.

While municipalities, charter counties, and limited home rule townships are entrusted with the independent authority to make their own rules for signage, noise control, and fence types, this legislation removes that authority as it applies to "auxiliary containers." The definition of "auxiliary container," as included in HB 242, extends to items such as plastic and paper bags, aluminum cans, glass bottles, Styrofoam cups, and carry-out food containers.

Limited home rule townships, such as those located along the Ohio River or Lake Erie, want to preserve the natural resources and wildlife that attract residents and visitors alike. Situations like this are the reason so many Ohio lawmakers try to respect local control, whether in regard to zoning, the school system, or other situations. House Bill 242 diminishes the role of local policymakers in protecting the resources that make their community attractive. These decisions should remain in the hands of local officials and the residents they serve.

Again, the OTA and Coalition respectfully requests your opposition to House Bill 242. We appreciate your consideration of our position. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or OTA Director of Governmental Affairs Marisa Myers at 614-863-0045.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi M. Fought".

Heidi M. Fought
Executive Director

HMF:mm