

Dear Ms. Millen:

I am writing to oppose the passage of Bill HB242, which will infringe the rights of townships and municipalities to control solids waste problems associated with single-use auxiliary containers, make it more difficult for Ohio communities to achieve the goals of the state's solid waste management plan, undermine the widely-accepted Home Rule principle, and inflict extra costs on consumers for solids waste disposal, cleaning of clogged storm drains, wastewater treatment and much more.

Hundreds of communities across our nation are struggling to control the mounting costs, locally, nationally, and internationally of the growing scourge of discarded single-use containers — especially plastic bags, and the passage of this bill will make the challenge and the struggle still more difficult. The fees on these containers that this Bill would prohibit are crucial supports for Ohio citizens struggling to combat this pernicious blight on our waste systems, creeks and rivers.

In the form of tiny plastic particles that do not ever degrade, these containers have entered the human food chain in increasing amounts. Wildlife, birds and fish are being poisoned; recycling centres operations are being compromised; drains are clogging and backing up at great cost to our municipalities; and our towns and cities are being defaced by the increasing amounts of trash and litter, the majority of which is made up of these single-use disposable containers. **Bill HB242, if passed, will make it much more difficult for us to combat these serious threats to our human environment, and the natural ecosystem on which our lives and health depend.**

We opposed the passage of this Bill for all of the above reasons.

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