



*Stronger Counties. Stronger Ohio.*

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Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

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

**FROM: CHERYL SUBLER, CCAO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**RE: OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 242 – RESTRICTION ON CHARTER COUNTIES ADDRESSING AUXILIARY CONTAINERS**

On behalf of the County Commissioners Associations Ohio (CCAO), I am writing to express our opposition to House Bill 242, which would prohibit charter counties from imposing a tax, fee, 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 were 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 these natural resources. Thus, Council took action to protect their local environment which attracts countless tourists every year. 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, pet waste, prescriptions and other items.

We ask that lawmakers respect local control and the ability of local elected officials to enact policies that reflect the best interests of their communities. These decisions are best left in the hands in the hands of local officials.

Therefore, CCAO asks for your consideration in not favorably reporting House Bill 242. Thank you.



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