



OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

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June 26, 2018

The Honorable Ron Young
House Economic, Commerce & Labor Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Opposition to HB 625

**2018-2019
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Dear Chairman Young:

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 625, which would prohibit limited home rule townships from imposing a tax or fee on auxiliary containers. The proposed legislation would apply to thirty-two 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 625, 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 it regards the zoning or the school system. House Bill 625 diminishes the role of local policymakers in protecting the resources that make their community attractive. Additionally, as pointed out by the Ohio Municipal League during testimony on companion legislation in the Senate, "no municipality [or charter county or limited home rule township] in Ohio has passed legislation to tax auxiliary containers of any variety."

Again, the OTA and Coalition respectfully requests your opposition to House Bill 625. 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 Heidi M. Fought at 614.863.0045.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. DeTemple
Executive Director

MJD:hf