

**Ohio Fair Managers Association Inc.**  
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**May 16, 2017**

Chairman Jordan, Vice Chair O'Brien, and Members of the Senate Finance General Government and Agency Review Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning provisions added to Substitute House Bill 49 on behalf of the Ohio Fair Managers Association.

My name is Howard Call and I am a Past President of the Ohio Fair Managers Association (OFMA) and I currently serve as the Executive Director of the Association. The OFMA is the statewide association representing Ohio's 95, county, independent fairs and the Ohio State Fair. I am proud to be a board member of the Summit County Fair, Tallmadge, Ohio .

As you well know, county and independent fairs are the cornerstone event for many communities. We are a showcase for Ohio's agriculture and 4-H programs and we provide an opportunity for families to have fun together safely.

One activity that many families like to enjoy at a fair are amusement rides. Fairs are proud to offer these activities for children of all ages. In recent history, we have seen a proliferation of inflatable rides. We know the children who come to the fair love these rides.

Safety at our fairs is of utmost importance to myself and other fair board members. We rely on the Ohio Department of Agriculture, with the expertise of their Ride Safety Division, to properly and thoroughly inspect every ride before it is open for operation on our grounds. The OFMA believes the current structure is working as intended and changes are not needed.

The OFMA believes the House added language regarding inflatables could weaken that oversight. Relying on the Department of Administrative Services to make binding recommendations to the ODAg regarding appropriate fees is not in the best interest of public safety.

We are asking for the Senate to remove the provisions in Substitute House Bill 49 regarding inflatables. Mr. Chairman, Members of the subcommittee, thank you for considering this perspective and safety of those who enjoy these amusement rides and devices.

Sincerely,

**Howard Call**

Howard Call, CFE  
Executive Director