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May 12, 2017

Bob Hackett  
Chairman, Finance Health and Medicaid Subcommittee  
The Ohio Senate  
The Statehouse  
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Chairman Hackett:

Safe food and water is a profoundly local issue, this is true in Ohio. As Executive Director of the Nation's largest professional association dedicated to the safety and security of food and water in local communities, I submit this letter in opposition to Sub HB 49, which would in effect abolish the Ohio Sanitarian Board, and transfer its function to the Ohio Department of Health.

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) supports all its local state Boards of Sanitarians as they provide local guidance on environmental health issues. Registered Sanitarians have the skills to ensure that necessities such as clean air, safe food, and potable water are met within the communities in which they live and work. NEHA's mission is "to advance the environmental health professional for providing a healthful environment for all", and it is the belief that having a local state Board of Sanitarians would assist in accomplishing that mission.

Since 1937, NEHA has been leading the way for practitioners to achieve a set of defined competencies, evidenced through testing and maintained through continuing education to achieve the goal of providing a healthier community. NEHA offers the Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) specifically for this reason. Professionals demonstrate competency in an impressive range of environmental health issues, providing education to their communities on environmental health concerns, and directing and training personnel to respond to routine or emergency environmental situations. NEHA and Ohio Board of Registered Sanitarians have worked together since 1983 to offer the exam to individuals based on Ohio's eligibility requirements. **Your state has been well-served by this arrangement, and it is a model of excellence that many other states have replicated.**

Thank you for the opportunity to convey my absolute opposition to Sub HB 49, which would in effect abolish the Ohio Sanitarian Board, and transfer its function to the Ohio Department of Health. The health, safety and security of Ohio children and families are well served by the existing and highly functional Ohio Sanitarian Board. The Board is national beacon of excellence, please let it continue its admirable track record.

I would be pleased to travel to Ohio at my own expense to discuss this issue with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David T. Dyjack".

David T. Dyjack, Dr.PH, CIH  
Executive Director and CEO