Testimony from Troy Markham, RE: HB 242

I am the city council member who sponsored the ordinance in Bexley, Ohio to ban single-use plastics

I am not an environmentalist. Up until this year, I too used an excessive amount of plastics without question

I did not introduce this legislation to be radical, to institute unrealistic restrictions on our community, or even to make a point.

I introduced this legislation because people kept asking me to. Everywhere I went, people were talking about their concerns over single-use plastics. About how disgusting it was to see them everywhere. Seeing these cheap plastic bags blowing across the streets. Hanging in trees. Washing into the sewers.

They were reading about the damage the bags are doing in our forests and in our lakes and streams. They were concerned that single-use plastics were being produced and spread mindlessly in endless numbers into the environment. They were worried about the effects on so much plastic entering the food chain and ending up in the food we eat and in our own bodies. And they wanted us to do something about it.

They wanted us to work with businesses, and we did. We spent hours meeting with our business owners to craft legislation that was thoughtful to their needs and helpful to everyone in the community. The resulting legislation was acceptable to all, and passed with great enthusiasm in our community. We had half a dozen teenagers testify on its behalf.

Hours before our legislation passed, Cuyahoga county passed their own single-use plastics ban.

Just this last week, the entire country of Canada announced their intention to institute a single-use plastics ban.

And more cities and counties will be working to curb the spread of plastic bags.

Because this is something that people want. They will keep asking government to help stop this flow of plastics.They want the ability to regulate their communities from pollution

It is our job to help citizens shape their communities and protect their rights to participate in government and create the regulations that they live under.

I urge you to let the voices of the citizens in our communities stand and reject HB 242