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Senate Bill 103 Sponsor Testimony
Senate Judiciary Committee
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Chairman Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Thomas, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on SB 103.

SB 103 would expand the jurisdiction of the Cleveland Housing Court to include the right to hear appeals of criminal and civil cases arising from environmental crimes. The Cleveland Housing Court's jurisdiction in these matters would run concurrent with the jurisdiction of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas.

The legislation mirrors the shared jurisdiction of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas and the Franklin County Municipal Court Environmental Division, and would enable the Housing court to utilize their expertise on environmental issues in more cases while freeing up the Cuyahoga Court of Common Pleas to devote greater time to handling serious violent crimes.

The Cleveland House Court is fit to hear appeals of felony environment cases because they are currently efficiently adjudicating crimes arising from the violation of the City's zoning, health, waste collection and air pollution codes.

The Cleveland Housing Court judge will be providing proponent testimony on this proposal. It is also supported by the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, the Cuyahoga County Council, and the Cleveland Municipal Court.

Thank you, Chairman Eklund and members of the committee for allowing us to speak to this legislation. We would be happy to answer any questions at this time.