



Chairman Kick, Ranking Member O'Brien and all members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture, Development and Natural Resources, thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today.

As President of the Greater Ohio Showmen's Association (GOSA), I would like to express support for the general revenue funding proposed for the Amusement Ride Safety Division of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. GOSA is a non-profit organization made up of 450+ members in the outdoor amusement industry. Our members service all the county fairs in the state of Ohio as well as other festivals throughout the state. GOSA members are family owned & operated businesses and earn their living providing enjoyment to others.

The Amusement Ride Safety Division is charged with several things, but of critical importance is their responsibility to license and inspect amusement rides. One segment of our membership are the portable amusement ride companies. In normal times, they travel all across the state offering fun entertainment for Ohioans. The GOSA is fully committed to ride safety. It is critical to our companies' success that the public is confident in the safety of our rides. We understand and take responsibility for the fact Ohioans are trusting us with the safety of their families.

Under the Executive version of the budget there are 2 line items for amusement inspections.

GRF 700511 Ride Inspection	\$ 900,000	\$ 600,000
5780 700620 Ride Inspection	\$ 700,000	\$ 1,200,000

We understand that the agency was underfunded in 2020 because of the closure of most amusement rides in the state due to COVID-19 orders. We look forward to getting back up and running in 2021 with a full fair and festival season. We are very pleased that the Executive budget proposes filling those short falls with GRF funds as opposed to fee increases. Since our members were not able to operate in 2020, they are also looking at financial difficulties, so asking for them to shoulder the burden of the Department's shortfall would have been opposed by our members.

We ask that the House of Representatives retain this GRF support for amusement ride safety and inspections in your version of House Bill 110.

Thank you for your consideration of this perspective.

Sincerely,

David Drake
GOSA President

P.O. Box 43 Pataskala, OH 43062 Phone: 740-739-9073
GreaterOhioSA@gmail.com www.mygosa.net