



Ohio Technology & Engineering Educators Association

Affiliated with the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association

November 22, 2022

Theresa Gavarone, Chair
Senate Local Government and Elections Committee
Senate District 2
Senate Building
1 Capital Square, 2nd Floor
Columbus, Oh 43215

RE: H.B. 423 Designating the All-American Soap Box Derby as the official state gravity racing program

Honorable State Senators:

The Ohio Technology and Engineering Educators Association (OTEEA), founded in the 1940s, has across the years has represented the Industrial Arts, Industrial Technology, and Technology Education teachers in providing valued hands-on experiences that benefit all Ohio students.

Based on our first-hand knowledge of the All-American Soap Box Derby's traditional family racing and the educational hands-on Gravity Racing Challenge programs in schools and afterschool programs that we wish to take this opportunity to endorse the designating of the All-American Soap Box Derby as the official state gravity racing program.

For the 12 years that we hosted the Technology and Engineering Showcase in the Youth Center during the 12-day Ohio State Fair we always got strong public interest and participation in the Soap Box activities that were a part of our 10,000 sq ft exhibit. Drawing from the comments and stories told by some of the 86,500 visitors to our annual Showcase, the Soap Box Derby experience is deeply engrained in individual family lore and the memories of boys and girls who have raced in school, local community events, regional races, in other states, and on the Derby Hill in Akron.

The OTEEA also sees this special designation of the Soap Box experience as a way of sending a positive message to boys and girls to appreciate the long line of historical Ohio designers, inventors, engineers, and industrialists. It is important that Ohio's youth can envision their place in the next generation of designers, inventors, engineers, and industrialists

With many thanks to the doers and the makers,
Dick
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