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Committees:
Energy and Public Utilities - *Chair*
Select Committee on Rail Safety - *Chair*
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Finance
Workforce & Higher Education
Governor's Executive Workforce Board
Ohio Turnpike Commission

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State Senator
26th District

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Chairman Kick, Vice Chair Lear, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee; thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 119 today.

During my tenure in the state legislature, I have been confronted with an issue I never anticipated: trash.

So let's talk trash!

My constituents in Fostoria and Seneca County have struggled with out of state trash, mostly from the East Coast (NY, NJ, MD, and CT), coming into their home for years. Local constituents have been demonstrating concern for years over the growing landfill and the size of it. Roughly 7,500 tons a day coming in, IS a lot of trash. For perspective, 85% of out-of-state trash comes to 3 locations in Ohio, 1 being Fostoria. This fact is causing my constituents to genuinely worry about the effects on the air they breathe, the water they drink, and their overall quality of life. This struggle also affects all of us; no one wants a lack of oversight over the waste brought in our state. We certainly do not want to be known as the "Trash State." Do we want to be known as a net importer of trash or as the trash depot center of the East Coast? I say no.

SB 119 is a proactive solution. In summary, the bill:

- Creates no new fee increases and no new regulations.
- Allows for a new permissive and variable fee for C&DD in ORC 3714.07. These fees and their collection mirror the district disposal fees for solid waste under current law (ORC3734.57B). The money collected from the fees are passed on to the health boards that have these facilities in their territories. Boards of health can use these dollars to mitigate impacts to health, safety, and welfare.

- Allows solid waste management districts to pass funds on to cities, counties, boards of health, municipalities and townships so they can mitigate impacts to health, safety, and welfare.
- Allows a county that contributes 75% of the revenue to a SWMD to leave that district via resolution by that county's board of commissioners. Before a county with 75% of the SWMD's revenue can withdraw, all counties must meet beforehand. Should the county still wish to withdraw, the process must take maximum 180 days.

Currently in my district, the OSS Solid Waste District contains three counties: Ottawa, Sandusky, and Seneca. However, 85% of trash is generated in one county, Seneca County. Senate Bill 119 is a direct response to my constituents and community leaders who are tired of being unheard and who have drastic concerns for their health and quality of life. It is also a proactive approach to ensuring that Ohio does not continue to become a trash can for the East Coast.

The State of Ohio has been very forward in inviting new businesses to our state. I applaud all of those efforts, however, with those great innovations and technological changes coming, we also need to be on top of our trash situation.

Our state is attractive as a trash destination because of its low fees. If our fees were not so low, trash would not be accumulating in our state. Although, no one wants a fee increase, our fee structure has been in place since 1988, which warrants its review. Just to reemphasize, we are **not** increasing any fees. We are simply creating a permissive fee that is also decided on by the locals.

Ohio is also the destination for trash because of our reluctance to recognize exactly the need to be doing more with recycling. With local oversight, our constituents need to be assured that the air we breathe and the water we drink are clean and that the contents of trains coming through our state are adequately monitored.

In addition, trains bringing trash in fall under Federal Guidelines, like the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). We cannot regulate what is in a train passing through Ohio nor can we dictate that the contents are covered. These additional "lack of protections" create a need for local oversight.

This issue from my locals is complicated and will need all of the above provisions to provide for the safety and health of my constituents and others throughout the state affected by this silent enemy. This was a constituent driven issue and I appreciate all the help and feedback we received from all participating parties to get a vote of 30-0 in the Senate.

Thank you, Chair, and I welcome any questions from the committee.