

Subject: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 119 – Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Honorable Chairman Kick, Vice Chair Lear, Ranking Member Rogers, and other members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Don Mennel. I am Chairman Emeritus of The Mennel Milling Company currently serving on Fostoria, Ohio, City Council and have worked with Senator Bill Reineke in requesting this legislation.

WIN Waste Innovations, the operator of Sunny Farms Landfill, located at 12500 West County Road 18, Fostoria, Ohio, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Wheelabrator Technologies, Inc., a member of the Noracan Group, all owned by Macquarie Infrastructure Partners, a division of the Macquarie Group of Sydney, Australia. Macquarie is one of the largest venture capital funds in the world and the same organization that leased the Indiana Turnpike for 75 years only to declare bankruptcy eight years later.

WIN Waste Innovations continues to acquire and roll up assets. They recently purchased a rail served landfill in Georgia, purchased Waste Away Systems based in Heath, Ohio, and have filed an application with the Ohio EPA for a sixty percent (60%) expansion of Sunny Farms Landfill.

While WIN Waste Innovations will tell you that they recently invested more than one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) at the Ohio landfills (Sunny Farms and Tunnel Hill Reclamation Landfill), they did so only after being forced by the EPA.

Sunny Farms Landfill was never intended to be a mega-landfill. It was built by local businessmen to fulfill the need for the City and Township. WIN Waste Innovations and/or their predecessors converted the landfill to a rail served landfill hauling trash from New York and New England.

For the trash to reach the landfill, the CSX train must slow to five miles an hour to transfer from the east-west mainline to the north-south line inside the city limits of Fostoria. As a result, we have a trash train in town every day.

Currently, the City of Fostoria has no oversight or control over the landfill, but suffer all the consequences, including odors, decreased valuations for property and homes, and trash that escapes the trains and trucks.

Ohio Revised Code makes it nearly impossible for Seneca County to remove itself from the Solid Waste District which is made up of three counties. Fostoria has the largest landfill which provides eighty-three percent (83%) of the revenues but gets almost nothing in return.

Senate Bill 119 provides the opportunity to establish our own Solid Waste District with proper oversight and control of the landfill. It rights years of wrong that have existed because of poorly written law. Senate Bill 119 also provides that the generators of the trash pay more equitable fees for the disposal of that trash.

For these reasons, I urge you and the members of your Committee to forward Senate Bill 119 to the full House for passage.

Thank you for your service to the state of Ohio and for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 119.