

Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 119 May 1, 2024

Gregory J. Cassidy

Fostoria Native, Resident, and City Councilman at Large

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

My name is Greg Cassidy. I submit this statement as a Fostoria resident, as well as a Councilman at Large. I was initially appointed to fill a vacancy in 2017; I have subsequently served a complete term and have been elected for another four-year term. I strongly support SB 119.

There is no productive purpose in repeating the same points that have been so convincingly and eloquently presented. I prefer to offer a few points that have been inadequately presented:

Win-Waste of Seneca County IS NOT IN FOSTORIA! The landfill is located at 12500 West County Road 18, Fostoria, OH 44830. This location is outside of the city limits in Loudon Township, Seneca County...IT IS NOT IN FOSTORIA! I resent the implication that has given many people the impression that the City of Fostoria has control over the unfavorable issues concerning the landfill. For years we have been powerless.

In more recent years, the tide has begun to turn. New County Commissioners, new county health leadership and a local organized group of private citizens comprised of Fostoria and non-Fostoria residents have made a tremendous difference in getting the attention of agencies both at the State, as well as the Federal Level. After many years of inattention, it is my belief that this area and the related issues are finally being recognized.

I acknowledge that the landfill has new owners and has been more aggressive in correcting some issues and spent a considerable amount of money. They had no choice...the mandates were catching up with the operation. Over the years, the issues at the landfill were not addressed in a timely manner. Foot dragging, endless excuses and the bureaucratic blame game stalled corrective action. The "mountain" continued to grow daily. Those in the surrounding area suffered daily and some still do!

I feel that the issues related to this dump should be addressed at the State and Federal level. SB 119 is the perfect example of State involvement. There are certainly other communities here in Ohio faced with the same dilemma or other serious issues. At the local level, we should be focused on job Creation, housing, and business/economic development.

This legislation will not totally solve the problem. It will give Seneca County and the Health Department the ability to once and for all control our destiny and deal with this most serious issue. Seneca County will be free of the bonds that have impeded our ability to provide adequate oversight of this facility and provide local funding to control our local issues.

Respectfully submitted.

Gregory J, Cassidy