

Susan Platt

I am here today to urge you to vote yes on SB119. As you are well aware, Ohio is facing a serious problem with out of state trash. We understand that landfills are necessary, but the *amount* and *type* of waste that is accepted is the issue. For years, the Interstate Commerce Clause was used as an excuse by the solid waste districts to avoid taking action. Unfortunately, other states realized the consequences of their inaction, and the massive cleanup costs that were created as a result of inadequate oversight. New Hampshire and New York have recently passed legislation that will stop all landfill permits until 2028, and limit the amount of out of state trash they accept to only 15%. They are also banning private ownership of landfills. These measures are ultimately going to protect their states from further environmental harm, while dumping their problems on Ohio. Waste by rail is the solution for the East Coast waste problem, and we in Ohio on the receiving end are the victims. We have rolled out the red carpet for their trash by ignoring the problem and keeping fees low to encourage the shipment of waste into our state. It seems that the general consensus is that it only affects a small number of counties, so we will continue to appease the solid waste industry for profit to the state. Our county and a few others were considered sacrifice zones. This is not the way to treat any county in Ohio. All 88 counties should matter, especially when we realize that the amount of out of state trash is set to massively increase as a result of this new East coast legislation. In New York alone, the amount of trash diverted away from their state in 2020 was about 3 million tons. They have projected that amount to increase to 15 million tons by 2050. This is according to a report by WSHU public radio, a CT/NY 501c. We are allowing the permitting landfills that we don't need for Ohio residents. Instead, we are accommodating the

In Ohio we have Seneca, Hancock, Trumbull, Hamilton, Harrison, Jefferson and Perry Counties currently dealing with landfill problems. Expansions are happening all over the state and New Jersey recently received a \$5 million grant to add 5.2 miles of rail along the Harrison-Jefferson county line to expand the Apex landfill in Amsterdam, Ohio. The number of counties affected will continue to grow in the next few years as the influx of waste increases due to the new landfill regulations in the east coast states.

This bill is an absolute necessity, not just for Seneca County and everyone sitting behind me here today (point to us), but the entire state needs to prepare for the problems heading our way. SB119 gives us the freedom to make decisions for our county and also provided the necessary funding to protect the health and environment of Ohioans. This measure is urgent and should not be sitting on a desk waiting for a disaster to happen. We have no idea what is coming by rail every day, but we know it includes industrial waste that is harmful to human health. We are not getting normal household trash. Construction and demolition debris is known to contain many harmful chemicals. Every county in Ohio is important to Ohio as a whole. This problem may affect your county soon. No child should grow up in Ohio with fear to play outside or drink the water. Their inheritance which was once the dream of owning a family farm, may soon be a superfund site under government ownership. The OEPA has failed us and we need to have the ability to protect ourselves by breaking away from bad joint agreements and having adequate funding for our health department to do their job.

SB 119 allows a \$2 per ton FEE, not tax, for construction debris. The fee is permissible and up to the respective county commissioners. For a landfill that takes in 7500 tons per day and 95% is out of state waste, many resources are needed to monitor in order to protect the health and welfare of the citizens. This fee would be received by the host county/SWD. It would not be a state wide tax. The mega landfills are forcing Ohio to permit landfills that we don't need. East coast states need the landfills because, as you know, they have a moratorium on new landfill permits. We in Ohio are far behind in legislating protection for all of our citizens. As policy

makers, legislators are here to put policies in place to reflect what is best for Ohio. Win Waste, whose profit is primarily achieved through out of state trash, is in business to attract out of state waste. In order for WW to do that, we have to allow landfills that we don't need and will not be used for our waste. We understand that SB 119 will not eliminate out of state trash but will allow us to leave the current SWMD, form our own SWMD, and collect fees to monitor the waste. SB 119 is a perfect place and time to make a re set on out of state trash.