



April 30, 2024

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

My name is Donna Cook, serving as the Executive Director of the Western Ohio Home Builders Association. I am writing to you on behalf of our organization to express our opposition to Senate Bill No. 119.

Senate Bill No. 119, if enacted, would impose undue burdens on the Construction & Demolition industry in Ohio. As representatives deeply invested in the well-being of our industry and the communities we serve, we believe this bill poses a significant threat to Ohio's economic infrastructure and public health.

Of particular concern are the permissible fees outlined in SB 119, which would substantially increase disposal costs. These increased costs would inevitably be passed on to our customers—the hardworking citizens of Ohio who are building or renovating their homes. Not only will this impact their financial burdens, but it will also severely hinder our ability as homebuilders to control costs and provide attainable housing options for Ohioans. This threatens to exacerbate the already challenging issue of housing affordability, making it increasingly difficult for individuals and families to achieve the dream of homeownership.

Moreover, the proposed fee hike lacks transparency and accountability. There is no requirement for the regulatory agency to justify the need for these additional funds or to outline a comprehensive plan for their utilization. This raises serious questions about the fairness and efficacy of the proposed measures.

In conclusion, we urge you to reconsider Senate Bill No. 119 and its potential ramifications on our industry and the communities we serve. We stand ready to engage in constructive dialogue and collaborate on solutions that promote responsible development while safeguarding the interests of all Ohioans.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Cook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Donna" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Cook".

Donna Cook  
Executive Director  
Western Ohio Home Builders Association