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Opponent Testimony by Jonathan Welle on Senate Bill 158
Government Oversight Committee
October 10th, 2023

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to present opponent testimony on SB 158. My name is Jonathan Welle and I am writing to oppose the passage of Senate Bill 158.

Cleveland voters deserve their right to vote on Issue 38 in November. Just like Clevelanders, voters in every municipality in Ohio deserve the opportunity to vote on local, citizen-led ballot initiatives. SB 158 infringes on that right.

In my neighborhood, we need traffic calming like speed bumps to keep kids safe as they play on the sidewalk. Issue 38 will give my neighbors and I a chance to get the funding for those projects, which we've been unable to do for years.

SB 158 is a cynical attempt to strip that power away from me and my neighbors. It's led by a Senator who doesn't represent me and my neighborhoods on Monroe Ave, and who doesn't know what's best for me and my city.

Regardless of where you stand on Issue 38, Clevelanders deserve to make up their own minds on this issue. We are smart, capable people who can come together to make collective decisions. We deserve to have those decisions respected. I am happy to discuss this further - please feel free to reach out. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Welle