

Testimony of Jim Feasel
Seneca County, Ohio
In support of SB-119
Ohio Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
May 23, 2023

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Landis, ranking member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the committee:

I write today as a lifelong Seneca County Ohio resident, a father whose duty it is to protect my family's well being, a citizen wishing to safeguard the livability of my County, a farmland owner who is concerned about the future desirability and value of my property, and a proponent of more local community control and oversight of landfills as offered by SB119.

Current Ohio statutes concerning landfill regulation have failed to maintain control over issues caused by out-of state waste flowing into the State. This has resulted in rapid massive growth of some landfills in communities which are denied adequate control over these facilities by present law.

Ohio must give its citizens the ability to protect the health and welfare of their communities from out-of-state actors whose business models are focused more on their profits than the consequences of their actions. State agencies can be too far removed from such situations to grasp what is really happening in the areas being heavily affected. Local agencies and resident citizens who deal with landfill related issues both daily and directly MUST be given the ability to better monitor and control what is happening in their communities.

Ohio needs to be a business friendly state. A major requirement for any business is a decent area in which to operate and pleasant neighborhoods for their employees to live in. It is not possible to offer such conditions when communities cannot adequately protect themselves from being inundated with out-of-state waste. SB-119 will bring much needed relief in this matter and the Ohio Legislature should pass it into law asap for the benefit of all Ohio citizens and businesses.

Thank you,

Jim Feasel
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