



SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE – Opponent Testimony, SB 119, 5.30.23

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Landis, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the committee, thank you for holding this hearing and for the opportunity provide written testimony. My name is Hannah Kubbins and I am the Deputy Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity, Ohio. AFP, along with a series of partner organizations, is working to move our society more closely to one reflective of the Principles of Human Progress – the principles so eloquently captured in the Declaration of Independence – one of equal rights and mutual benefit, where everyone can live a life of meaning and succeed by benefiting others with limited government intervention.

Accordingly, on behalf of my organization, we are opposed to the added barriers and financial burden that would be placed on Ohio citizens as proposed in SB 119.

As written, SB 119 increases the cost that Ohio citizens, businesses, and municipalities must pay for essential waste disposal by over \$180 million/year. Further, it earmarks money to create and fund unnecessary additional state and local bureaucracies. Simply put, SB 119 would impose a statewide solution for a local problem. The local community of Fostoria, one of the bill's chief supporters, already has the authority to resolve issues through local zoning authority and their Solid Waste Management Plan.

Other projects and/or facilities that fulfill public needs – power plants, solar farms, wind farms – are subject to local zoning requirements. However, when it comes to solid waste facilities, Ohio communities have the freedom to develop local land use requirements and solid waste facilities must comply with local zoning requirements. It's clear that this issue can be resolved at the local level without an edict from Columbus to the rest of the state.

Additionally, there has been no demonstrated need by the Ohio EPA, Ohio Solid Waste Management Districts, or Ohio Health Departments for additional funds to perform their duties.

Ohio has an existing environmentally sound, comprehensive waste facility review and permitting process. Including in this process are several siting criteria designed to conserve Ohio's environment, prevent nuisances, and to only permit to environmentally sound facilities. SB 119 would add vague, redundant, and unnecessary criteria to an already thorough, long-term process. Currently, it takes more than 5 years to obtain a permit for a new or expanded solid waste landfill and costs millions of dollars in consulting fees, legal fees, and property

acquisitions costs. The additional vague and undefined criteria could cause facility developers to hesitate trying to obtain a permit based upon the proposed arbitrary criteria, which would in turn jeopardize Ohio's long-term ability to maintain our solid waste management capacity.

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity Ohio, we oppose SB 119 due to its potential increased burden on Ohio taxpayers and unnecessary expansion of government to mandate a statewide solution that emerged from a local problem.