



Ohio Senate Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources

Interested Party Testimony on Senate Bill 119

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May 30, 2023

Chairman Shaffer, Vice Chair Landis, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources - my name is Chris Zeigler, and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio office of the American Petroleum Institute (API), or API Ohio.

API Ohio is the state affiliate office of the American Petroleum Institute. The API is a national trade association that represents all segments of America's natural gas and oil industry, which supports more than 11 million U.S. jobs and is backed by a growing grassroots movement of millions of Americans. Our approximately six hundred members produce, process, and distribute most of the nation's energy, and participate in API Energy Excellence®, which is accelerating environmental and safety progress by fostering new technologies and transparent reporting. Established in 1919 as a standards-setting organization, the API has developed more than eight hundred standards to enhance operational and environmental safety, efficiency, and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide interested party testimony regarding Senate Bill 119 (SB 119), which would make changes to the laws governing the transfer and disposal of solid waste and construction and demolition debris, including increasing certain fees. Under the bill as written, solid waste fees would increase from \$4.75/ton to \$8.50/ton, and construction and demolition waste fees would increase from 85¢/cubic yard or \$1.70/ton to \$3.75/cubic yard or \$7.50/ton. Introduced just earlier this month, the bill appears to be on a fast track.

API member companies are governed by solid waste disposal laws, both in the upstream drilling sector, as well as for various construction projects in the midstream and downstream sectors. Though proponent testimony noted that the impetus behind the bill is a local one, the impacts of the fee increase would be far-reaching, touching construction and demolition activities statewide, including in the oil and gas sector. Based on initial review of the language, the fee increases yield no discernible benefit to the payee. What's more, SB 119's proposed fees would put Ohio at the top of most surrounding states in the region.

Due to the potential far-reaching implications of the bill, API Ohio member companies are still examining the language to provide a more in-depth analysis. For that reason, API Ohio is engaging as an interested party today and respectfully asks the committee to take more time in its consideration of the bill until all affected parties can have adequate time for review. We reserve the right to change our position on the legislation following that outcome.

Thank you for allowing API Ohio the opportunity to present written comments on SB 119. We look forward to engaging in further discussions on this issue.