

Good afternoon Chair Schaffer, Vice Chair Landis, Ranking member Hicks-Hudson, and the members of the Senate Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Brenda Kuhn and I am from Seneca County. I am here today to provide proponent testimony in support of SB 119 .

I listened to the testimony last week and heard a committee member ask a question about the risks. I would like to explain how this affects each of us living not only in Seneca County, but in Ohio in general. We have literally become the dumping ground for the East Coast and while many are unaware of the negative impact, it still exists.

If you are taking a strong medication, your doctor will run tests on your liver and kidneys to make sure you are not harmed and the function of these organs are normal. If the medication becomes toxic and it shows up on your blood tests as abnormal levels, the patient is given a few options. You may stop using the medication or continue with the risks. The next option may be kidney dialysis or even go on a transplant list if the liver or kidney eventually fails.

The testing we are relying upon in our community is uncertain as to the validity. The results are rarely explained and the process may or may not be legitimate. If we rely on this flawed system and believe it's accurate, we are provided with absolutely no resolution to the bad results. There is no plan if our water testing comes back contaminated. There is no plan if the toxins cause any of us cancer. There is no plan to compensate any of us if the soil, groundwater and air eventually test positive. All liners eventually leak. The question is not if, but when, will it show up in the testing. Once it does, does anyone have a plan for us? Why are we concentrating so many risk factors in one area? Shouldn't the public have a voice in these decisions that directly affect them? Why should any business have the right to impose such high risks to their neighbors after years of violations? How many chances should they get before they follow the same rules as everyone else? We have watched Flint, Michigan and East Palestine suffer the consequences without any relief. We live in fear of when will our property value, and everything we've worked our entire lives for, be totally lost. We live in fear of the even worse prospect of WHO will we lose to disease along the way. We have already seen many lives destroyed, yet we are told we cannot ever prove it. What we can prove is that, way too many families have been forced out of their generational homes in order to allow a foreign investment company to move in and grow to enormous proportions-- without any exit plan. We deserve better. I personally don't believe we should have to accept these risks and I certainly would choose to stop the medications before risking organ failure. This bill is a small first step. We appreciate your time listening.