

**Jack DeWitt, Director, North Central Ohio Solid Waste District**  
**Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**  
**Senate Bill 119 – Opponent Testimony**  
**May 30, 2023**

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Landis, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Amended Substitute Senate Bill 119.

I am the Director of the North Central Ohio Solid Waste District (NCOSWD) which is comprised of six counties: Allen, Champaign, Hardin, Madison, Shelby and Union Counties. I am writing to you on behalf of NCOSWD to express our concerns about the potential effects of SB 119 in its current form on our District and the residents, businesses, municipalities and townships in our six counties.

NCOSWD's six counties have worked together for 30 years to develop a strong recycling infrastructure across the entire District to comply with Ohio EPA's rules and the State Solid Waste Management Plan. NCOSWD provides drop-off recycling services to the public throughout the District. NCOSWD also operates single-stream recycling facilities in Marysville and Sidney to process materials collected by municipal curbside recycling collection programs and the recyclable material collected by NCOSWD's drop-off program.

In 2020, NCOSWD borrowed \$3 million from the Ohio Water Development Authority to expand the District-owned and operated recycling processing center in Marysville. It is a 20-year loan. There is no easy way to unwind that investment and pay the debt if one or more counties could suddenly unilaterally withdraw from NCOSWD. Current Ohio law in ORC §343.012 only allows a county to withdraw if there is a consensus for the withdrawal among the component counties. This process necessitates negotiation and agreement on thorny issues such as addressing outstanding indebtedness. The provision in Am. Sub. SB 119 (line 621; proposed Section 343.012(B)(1)), allows a county to unilaterally withdraw regardless of whether debt issues have been addressed, or whether the separated counties are able to adopt, ratify, and obtain approval of a new solid waste plan that complies with the requirements of the State Solid Waste Plan. NCOSWD is concerned about the potential negative consequences of the proposed language on future cooperation between the counties within a joint district on issues such as recycling programs and infrastructure development.

In addition, NCOSWD is concerned about the proposed increases in solid waste disposal fees contained in S.B. 119 in its current form. NCOSWD's single-stream recycling facilities generate 3,000 to 4,000 tons of residual nonrecyclable waste that must be removed during processing and then disposed in a landfill. The added costs resulting from the increased disposal fees will have to be passed along to the communities that collect single stream recycling. Because of depressed prices for recovered cardboard and plastic recyclables, NCOSWD's single-stream processing facility in Marysville is making just enough revenue to cover its expenses. The additional fees on waste disposal in SB 119 will require NCOSWD to increase recycling processing fees to the communities within NCOSWD that provide single-stream curbside recycling collection. It is

possible that some communities may suspend their recycling programs instead of paying the increased costs for processing. This would be very unfortunate and contrary to one of the principal reasons why the General Assembly created solid waste management districts under H.B 592 in 1988.

Thank you for your attention and consideration to our concerns. I am happy to provide any additional information or answer any questions you may have regarding our concerns about SB 119.

Sincerely,

Jack DeWitt, Director,  
North Central Ohio Solid Waste District