

Testimony on Substitute SB 119

Ohio Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee

May 30, 2023

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chairman Landis, and Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in opposition to Substitute SB 119. My name is Keith Kimble and I serve as the President of Kimble Company and Kimble Recycling & Disposal, Inc. which is a private waste and recycling business that has been in my family for over 50 years.

I am testifying today on Substitute SB 119. As introduced, I am opposed to the adoption of SB 119 as it will have a negative impact on my family's business and our valued customers.

SB119 will have a detrimental impact upon our existing customer base, which is primarily comprised of residential customers and small and medium sized businesses. SB 119 as proposed will raise State disposal fees from \$4.75 a ton to \$7.50 a ton, and also raise fees paid to Solid Waste Management Districts from \$1-2 per ton, to \$4 per ton. This is combined increase on solid waste fees of between \$4.75 and \$5.75 per ton. This fee increase is essentially a tax that will be passed on to our customers who will collectively be forced to pay over 5 Million Dollars. In total, Ohioans will be forced to pay over 100 Million Dollars for this new fee. I do not believe that there is any demonstrated need by the State Government or solid waste districts for \$100 Million Dollars in additional revenue. Considering the significant burdens currently facing Ohioans, such as inflation, runaway grocery bills and increasing energy costs, imposing this significant fee increase is not justifiable.

In fact, I believe you will hear directly from the Solid Waste Management Districts that they have not asked for this increase and similarly do not support this bill.

SB 119 would significantly increase the construction and demolition debris disposal fee by almost 450% resulting in a new fee of \$11.50 per ton. This significant increase is not something to impose upon our local construction industry, particularly in light of the current economic climate.

I also believe that SB 119 will have unintended consequences with respect to the increase in other fees charged by Solid Waste Management Districts, such as designation fees. While SB 119 does not directly increase designation fees, it is foreseeable that in the future Solid Waste Management Districts will increase designation fees to equal the new increased disposal fees.

Further, the current disposal fees provides for a tiered charge of \$1 - \$2 per ton depending on whether the waste disposed is from inside the Solid Waste Management District or outside of the Solid Waste Management District. This fee set up was designed to charge more to out of district Ohioans who use the in-district landfills. The current fee will be a flat \$4 per ton thereby treating those in the district the same as outside the district. There is no logical reason to change the current tiered fee structure that has been in place for many years. No one has complained that in-district waste disposal fees should be increased to equal out of district waste.

SB 119 is an attempt to solve a local issue relating to the flow of out-of-state waste into Ohio, but it does not solve the problem and disproportionately impacts Ohio's municipalities, businesses and citizens.

Thank you.