



## OHIO TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

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**Senate Bill 119 Solid Waste and Construction & Demolition Debris  
Interested Party Testimony  
May 30, 2023  
Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Landis, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Kyle Brooks and I am the Director of Governmental Affairs for the Ohio Township Association (OTA). On behalf of the OTA, I would like to offer our interested party testimony on SB 119, Solid Waste and Construction & Demolition Debris.

It is understandable that nobody wants a landfill in their backyard, however they are necessary for the convenience of everyday life. Often, landfills in Ohio are within townships because of the availability of land. With the state driving economic growth and new business migration, it increases the demand for trash disposal. With this increase, a focus on the health, safety, and air and water quality should be priority so locals are not overwhelmed with trash and construction and demolition debris (C&DD).

SB 119 increases the fees for solid waste and C&DD which have not been updated since 2009. These surcharges help fund regulatory programs such as hazardous waste management and cleanup, waste management fund, and the soil and water conservation district assistance fund. The OTA does not take a stance on the increased solid waste and C&DD fees, although we understand the desire to revisit the fees due to inflation and the fact the fees are up for renewal in 2024. However, R.C. §3734.57 gives the ability to municipalities and townships to levy a community host fee of no more than \$0.25 per ton for solid waste, and R.C. §3714.07 allows for no more than \$0.08 per ton for C&DD waste if the disposal facility is located within the boundaries of the political subdivision. This revenue helps defray the cost of damage to roads, alleviate the increased demand of safety services, and other public services. The OTA believes if the disposal fees are to be increased, so should the host fees as they have not been increased for many years, similar as the state solid waste and C&DD fees. Currently, the host fees remain the same in SB 119. **The OTA respectfully requests the solid waste fee be increased to \$0.50 and the C&DD fee be increased \$0.20** which are in proportion to the other increases within this legislation.

These landfill facilities have a responsibility to the communities hosting them. Damage to the roads surrounding the facility is a concern as is the increased demand for safety services, litter, and noise. Current law allows facility's fee exemptions under circumstances such as solid waste that has asbestos or the disposal of C&DD waste at a facility licensed under Chapter 3714 of the Revised Code. **The OTA respectfully requests the exemptions to the community host fee for solid waste disposal be removed.**

Lastly, House Bill 592, from 1988 requires all Ohio counties to form a Solid Waste Management District, resulting in many counties forming Joint Solid Waste Districts. In the second hearing for SB 119 Seneca County residents made clear their want to divorce from their joint solid waste district, however with their three-county joint district they do not get majority vote of the Board of Directors to allow them to withdraw. We understand this is a difficult situation for the Seneca County residents. However, the OTA is concerned about the implications of a unilateral withdrawal in other counties across the state. Local subdivisions have invested money into the operations, disposal, and facilities. A dissolution is never simple as it involves finances, investments, changes of organization, audits, and the winding up of affairs. This will also leave the other local subdivisions in a scramble to create a mandated Solid Waste Management District when they have already invested tax payer dollars into the previous joint district,

with no ability to recoup those dollars. The OTA understands a need to review the withdrawal process, however a process that is unilateral may have unintended consequences for the other subdivisions in the Joint District.

Thank you for consideration of the OTA's position, as these proposed amendments have been OTA legislative priorities for some time. We appreciate Senator Reineke for sponsoring this legislation. If you have any questions or concerns about our position, please do not hesitate to contact me or OTA Executive Director Heidi M. Fought at 614-863-0045.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kyle A. Bunting". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "K" and a long, sweeping tail.

Director of Governmental Affairs