

May 29, 2023

Honorable Members of the Senate Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee:

The Preble County Solid Waste District and Preble County Commissioners strongly opposes Senate Bill 119. Preble County, under the direction of the Board of County Commissioners, many years ago saw the need to own and operate a sanitary landfill to ensure that the residents of Preble County would always have access to dispose of waste at a reasonable rate. Preble County is one of the few counties that actually owns and operates a landfill. Most landfills are owned by private companies that are for profit. This significant difference poses many challenges to a publicly owned landfill as approximately 90% of the waste taken is generated within Preble County and nearly 100% is waste that is generated within the state of Ohio. Over the last five years the landfill has between 35,000 and 45,000 tons of waste per year. Due to the low volume of waste residents pay an annual tax assessment of \$91.00 per year to ensure that the landfill is still controlled locally. The tipping fees are \$40.00 per ton and very little of that actually goes to the operation of the landfill, and that is why the residential assessments are necessary. A majority of the tipping fees go to EPA and other Ohio Revised Code Mandates such as Ohio EPA fees, Township Host Fees, Generation and Designation Fees.

The biggest point of contention that we have with this Bill is the significant increase to the Solid Waste fees increasing from \$4.75 per ton to \$7.50 per ton and C&DD fees increasing from \$1.70 per ton to in excess of \$7.00 per ton. Our landfill, along with many others, will have no choice but to increase tipping fees to in order to account for these increases. The tipping fees would have to have nearly a 7% increase just to account for the additional Solid Waste Fees. Ultimately every resident of our County, along with the rest of the State, will shoulder the burden of these fee increases as a result of trickle-down economics.

While this bill is well intended, it is very short sighted when failing to look at it from a perspective of all landfills in the state instead of the actions of just one. While the proposed fees do have carve outs for various local funding such as Health Departments and Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the reality is that the vast majority of it funds various programs for the Ohio EPA.

In closing, Preble County is strongly opposed to Senate Bill 119 due to the increased cost that would be burdened on the tax payers of Preble County. Discussions have been had with our representative, Representative Rodney Creech, and he is also WARE OF Preble County's Stance based on the reasons outlined above.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Creech', written in a cursive style.

Preble County Sanitary Engineer