

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 Susan Platt and I am from Seneca County. I am here today to provide proponent testimony in support of SB 119 .

One important component of this bill is that it allows areas who have entered into joint agreements for solid waste management to separate from the joint agreement if over 75% of the waste is generated in one county. In Seneca County we are in a joint agreement with Seneca, Ottawa and Sandusky counties. When the rail spur came to Seneca County, we began to receive more and more out of state waste with every solid waste plan. The allowed daily tonnage kept growing because the other two counties received funding for the waste that was plaguing our county. Seneca was taking all of the risks and the other two counties were receiving the benefits. This made a situation in which there was no way out. The vote was always going to be 2 against 1 in a three county joint agreement. The citizens attended meetings to complain about the problems created in the host city of Fostoria and were told there was no way for Seneca County to break away from the joint agreement. We were stuck with only 1/3 of the funds, which was inadequate to provide necessary oversight of the mega landfill.

Currently the landfill sits in our town and we receive 7500 tons a day from out of state. The solid waste district receives the tipping fees for every ton. Millions of dollars are going to places such as Put-in-Bay, Oak Harbor, Marblehead, Port Clinton, Danbury and these areas are all thriving. Meanwhile, the mountains of trash sit in our town causing destruction of property value, loss of business, and health problems. Fostoria is in financial distress and has been for many years, while these wealthy communities are benefitting from the tipping fees. We provide 83% of the total budget and yet the funds are split equally between the three counties. So, two counties are receiving millions of dollars, while our city is being harmed by toxic gas.

To make matters worse, the host city has been excluded from all funds and the director of the solid waste district has refused to even provide recycling services to our community. They give out \$100,000 a year in grant money to cities who don't need the money, while they have never given our city a grant because we are excluded because we cannot afford to pay for our own recycling. Meanwhile, the tipping fees are going to townships in other counties to pay for their recycling while refusing funds to the host city. We have been asking the solid waste district to provide funding for more oversight and to offset the damage to the host city. We were ignored by the director. This is happening because we are in this joint agreement that gives us only 1/3 of the votes.

With the allowed daily tonnage increasing soon to 12,000 tons a day, there is no end in sight if two unaffected counties are able to vote for what happens to us in Seneca County. We take all

the risks and they enjoy the financial benefit. This has created a situation in which Fostoria is literally being destroyed from a parasitic relationship. The golden goose is nearly dead. We deserve to make decisions that are best for our county by splitting away.