



**Ohio Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**

Opposition Party Testimony  
Ohio Senate Bill 119

**WM (Waste Management)**

May 30, 2023

**Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Landis, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Honorable Members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:**

Thank you for consideration of our testimony on Ohio Senate Bill 119, regarding solid waste and construction and demolition debris.

WM, formerly Waste Management, is North America's largest environmental solutions provider that has been proud to call Ohio home for decades. We serve communities across the state, with 35 facilities and hundreds of employees servicing over 560,000 customers. WM's business offerings go beyond just managing waste. We are a sustainability leader focused on helping customers achieve their sustainability, waste, and recycling goals, with a recent \$30 million investment in recycling infrastructure in NE Ohio. WM is always working for a sustainable tomorrow.

We write today in opposition to SB 119, which if implemented, would have a negative financial impact on our customers and your constituents. These customers are small businesses and Ohio families. They are neighbors, friends, and pillars of the community. If the significant fee increases introduced in SB 119 are adopted, it would disproportionately impact Ohio businesses, municipalities, and residents.

At a time of record-high inflation, now is not the time to raise fees by over 100% on solid waste and 619% on construction and demolition debris disposal. If implemented, this bill would increase the costs of waste disposal paid by Ohioans by up to over \$174 million annually.

There is not a sector of the economy that would not be negatively impacted by this bill. Nationally recognized economic investment projects in the state would pay over three times more for their construction waste fees, driving up the costs of projects designed to cultivate economic growth. Additionally, efforts to clean up urban and rural blight like demolishing abandoned homes or industrial sites would incur additional costs. Families in neighborhoods across the state would also face the same impacts, seeing fees double for their weekly garbage pickup.

The Ohio Revised Code requires operators such as WM to collect these fees, which will be passed along to the end user.

WM recognizes the hard work this committee and members of the General Assembly have collectively achieved to provide economic and regulatory stability to the state. We appreciate the conversations had with Sen. Reineke and others regarding this bill, and your willingness to listen. Recognizing the unique circumstances that have arisen in Sen. Reineke's district is important. However, SB 119 is a state-wide solution to a local issue.

While attempting to solve a local issue, SB 119 would disproportionately impact all Ohioans without cause, merit, or reason. As the committee considers this legislation and potential fee increases, WM respectfully requests this bill not be included in the 2023 Ohio biennial Operating Budget (HB 33). A change of this magnitude deserves a discussion that is not rushed and more thoroughly vetted.

As a committed partner in contributing to Ohio's sustainable growth, we share the same goals - keeping the state a great place to live, work, and raise a family -- in a clean, and healthy environment. Thank you for your time and we look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,

*George Brown*

George Brown  
Public Affairs Manager