

Trevor Pollack
1300 W. 58th Street
Cleveland, OH 44102

September 24, 2023

Dear Chairman Rulli and Ranking Member DeMora:

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 158. My name is Trevor Pollack and I am writing to oppose the passage of Senate Bill 158.

Cleveland voters deserve the opportunity to vote on Issue 38 in Cleveland. SB 158 is a blatant attempt to strip Clevelanders of their ability to decide for themselves on the question of creating a People's Budget. The process of participatory budgeting has been used in hundreds of cities around the United States as a form of civic education and engagement for residents to work with elected officials and city government to determine how their taxpayer dollars are spent.

The overwhelming evidence on participatory budgeting is that it is good for people, good for communities, and good for democracy. SB 158 is quite the opposite—it is petty, sinister government overreach masquerading as conservatism and will do only harm to our state.

I strongly oppose SB 158, and would be happy to speak with any members of the committee in more details about my opposition.

Sincerely,
Trevor Pollack