

James Misak  
3018 Clinton Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

September 25, 2023

Dear Chairman Rulli and Ranking Member DeMora:

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 158. My name is James Misak, 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, if passed, would deprive Cleveland voters of their ability to decide for themselves on the question of creating a People's Budget.

The thoughtful, impactful spending of public dollars is the responsibility of both elected officials and the constituents they serve. Through issue 38, Cleveland voters are now presented with an opportunity to directly and meaningfully guide how a portion of their public budget is spent. Whether they wish to pursue this opportunity should be the decision of Cleveland voters, and Cleveland voters alone. The state of Ohio should not preempt this decision.

The process of participatory budgeting has been used in hundreds of cities across the United States as a form of civic education and engagement, and as a meaningful mechanism for city residents to work with elected officials and city administrations to determine how their taxpayer dollars are spent

Whether one is in favor of or opposed to Cleveland issue 38, Cleveland voters should be the ones to decide if this process is right for Cleveland.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Misak". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small horizontal dash above the name.

James Misak