

September 25, 2023

John-Paul Richard
1750 Euclid Ave,
Cleveland Ohio 44115

Dear Chairman Rulli and Ranking Member DeMora:

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 158. My name is John-Paul Richard, I am a resident of the City of Cleveland, and I am writing to oppose the passage of Senate Bill 158.

Cleveland residents 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 Participatory Budgeting. SB 158 is not only undemocratic, but frankly flies in the face of the "home rule" that our republic is based on.

You need to remember that democracy is made OF the people not FOR the people. Our right to vote on whether or not we'd like Issue 38 to be encoded in Cleveland law belongs to us, and your attempts to prevent it are indicative of a character looking to rule over your constituents like a king. Ohio, and the United States did live under a monarchy once, and we decided how such attempts at ruling would be dealt with.

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

Sincerely,

John-Paul Richard