

My name is Randy Cunningham and I wish to testify against Senate Bill 158.

This bill has been introduced to prevent the passage of Cleveland Issue 38, a measure to institute a public budgeting policy for Cleveland. It is another in a long and disgraceful line of the Ohio State House pre-empting legislation passed by local governments. Pre-emption is a State House boot upon the neck of local self-government. It assumes that local governments, and the local people who elect those governments, are too incompetent to control their own affairs, and must be supervised by the State House. Local counties, cities, villages and townships have a colonial relationship with the State House, that is identical to the relationship that existed during the old colonial empires of the past two centuries. The residents of these local jurisdictions are not treated as citizens. They are treated like children, with Big Daddy Ohio, telling them when to eat, when to go the bathroom, and when to take their afternoon naps.

The citizens of Cleveland are not children. We are adults. We have a right to decide how we govern ourselves without clearing our decisions with the colonial office in Columbus. We have a right to decide between initiatives put before us for a vote. Time and experience will tell us if such initiatives were a good or bad idea. It is none of your business what we do. This citizen of Cleveland has a simple message to deliver to our colonial masters at the State House.

Mind your own damn business. Take a walk. Leave us alone. And finally, take your boot off our necks. And SB 158? I have some suggestions on what you can do with it, but my momma raised me to have good manners.

Thank you,
Randy Cunningham
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