



House Agriculture Committee

HB 433 Interested Party Testimony

Director Brian Baldrige, Ohio Department of Agriculture

October 15, 2025

Chairman Klopenstein, Vice-Chair Newman, Ranking Member Miller and Members of the House Agriculture Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer Interested Party testimony on HB 433.

It is my honor to serve as the Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) leading a staff of 500 dedicated public servants and ensuring the health and safety of Ohio's plants, animals, and food supply. Our 25 divisions and programs are designed to protect citizens and consumers which also include oversight of all amusement rides.

The proposed legislation would redistribute amusement ride inspection fees, administered by ODA's Division of Amusement Ride Safety, to reflect the amount of time and resources to complete inspections. The language of HB 433 mirrors the proposal outlined in the Executive and House versions of HB 96, the main operating budget.

This past fall I made a promise that ODA's Advisory Council on Amusement Ride Safety would review and evaluate the amusement ride fee structure. Created under section 993 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Council is made up of representatives from all aspects of the amusement ride industry, such as large amusement parks, portable ride companies, engineers, fairs, festivals, and inflatable companies.

Members of the council include:

- The director of agriculture or the director's designee;
- The general manager of the Ohio state fair or the general manager's designee;
- The following members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate:
 - A representative of temporary amusement ride owners;
 - A representative of the greater Ohio showmen's association and the owner of a ride;
 - Three representatives of owners of amusement parks;
 - A representative of the Ohio fair managers' association;
 - A representative of the insurance industry;
 - An engineer, who has an academic degree in engineering and who is knowledgeable in the amusement ride industry;



- o A representative of the Ohio festivals and events association;
- o Two representatives of the inflatable amusement ride industry who are owners or operators of inflatable amusement rides or consultants from the industry.
- A person registered as a professional engineer under Chapter 4733. of the Revised Code who shall serve as a nonvoting member, appointed by the director of agriculture. The director shall appoint the initial member not later than thirty days after November 6, 2019.
- One member of the public, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
- One member of the public appointed by the president of the senate.

A subcommittee of the Council was created and tasked with establishing a new fee structure, taking into consideration the complexity of each inspection and the cost associated with completing them. The subcommittee advanced a proposal to the full Council where it was approved unanimously and without any objection. The result of that collaboration is outlined before you in HB 433.

This revenue-neutral proposal establishes new ride categories based on industry classifications to better reflect the amount of time necessary to inspect each ride.

As an example, the Scrambler, which spins riders while not leaving the ground, currently falls under the same category as the Windseeker, a 300-foot-tall swing ride. The proposal would place these rides into separate, more accurate categories.

Each corresponding fee for the various classifications, including those in the inflatable industry, offers a more precise valuation of the time and complexity it takes for our inspectors to do their work.

Ohio has one of the strongest ride safety programs in the country and much of that credit goes to the General Assembly and their actions over the past several years. This includes the passage of “Tyler’s Law” in 2019 and providing the funding that allows our inspectors to fulfill their critical duties.

I would like to thank the Advisory Council on Amusement Ride Safety for their dedication and their thoughtful deliberation as they took on this important task. Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your attention to my testimony today and for your personal commitment to this issue. I am happy to answer any questions.