

Hello, my name is Stephen Kaumeyer, I work for SuperGames located here in Columbus, Ohio. We currently have 65 inflatables and 7 intermediate rides licensed through the state of Ohio. I've worked with Supergames for the last 23 years and have seen firsthand the evolution of the Ride Safety Department and associated fees that come with the inspection process. The process has been a long and frustrating one that continually seems to think of inflatable owners as lesser, while asking them to provide over 50% of the Departments income. The new proposed fee structure is simply a time-based fee that charges based on the average cost the ODA incurs per type of ride.

Today as a constituent and a member of the **inflatable amusement industry** in Ohio I respectfully request your consideration and support for legislation that would **lower the financial and regulatory burden** imposed on our businesses through state permit and inspection fees. The inflatable amusement sector, which includes bounce houses, slides, obstacle courses, and similar rental equipment, makes up a significant portion of Ohio's small business landscape in the entertainment and event services industry. These companies—often small, family-owned operations—provide affordable, family-friendly fun and are vital contributors to local economies across the state, particularly during the warm-weather season.

While we fully support and prioritize **public safety** through rigorous inspections and regulation by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA), the current structure of state-mandated fees places a disproportionate and substantial financial strain on these small businesses.

Specifically, the combination of **annual permit fees** and **per-ride inspection/reinspection fees** accumulates quickly for owners with multiple pieces of equipment. Given the high volume of inflatable units many companies own, these fees can represent a considerable percentage of a small business's annual operating costs, ultimately limiting their ability to invest in new, safer equipment and hire staff.

We believe that a review of the fee structure, similar to proposals that have sought to reduce the flat annual permit fee for an inflatable ride and adjust the inspection/reinspection fee based on the number of rides inspected at the same time and location, would provide much-needed relief without compromising safety. Such an adjustment would:

- **Support Small Business Growth:** Free up capital for owners to expand their inventory and invest in operational improvements.
- **Encourage Compliance:** Reduce the temptation for smaller operators to skip permitting or necessary maintenance due to prohibitive costs.
- **Acknowledge Business Scale:** Better reflect the economic reality and lower operational complexity of inflatable rentals compared to major amusement park rides.

I urge you to consider championing legislation or working with your colleagues to reduce these high fees. Your support would directly benefit numerous small business owners and families who rely on this industry throughout Ohio.