



Ohio Fair Managers Association
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Chairman Klopfenstein, Vice Chairman Newman, Ranking Member Miller and members of the House Agriculture Committee, thank you for the opportunity to express the Ohio Fair Managers Association's (OFMA) concerns with House Bill 433. The OFMA is the statewide association representing Ohio's 95, county fairs, independent fairs and the Ohio State Fair.

County and Independent Agricultural Societies are premier community events to showcase agriculture. These events are also important community and family gathering events with a wide variety of activities to participate in. These include, eating great food, interacting with animals, playing games, seeing musical acts, and riding rides. A fair midway isn't a fair midway without amusement rides. County fairs and our guest should feel confident in the safety of the rides because of the tremendous work by the Department of Agriculture and their Ride Safety Division. The ride companies we use value and ensure safety as their number one priority.

We are concerned that the fee increases on mechanical rides could jeopardize fairs' ability to offer rides at our fairs. Increases in operational costs for these companies, could disincentivize them from operating in Ohio. We have already heard from some of our members that it has become more difficult to find ride companies to book for their events. Additionally, the cost of the increased fees will likely be passed on the fairs and events that book these companies, increasing our operating costs as well.

We ask this committee to reconsider moving forward with this proposal. We understand why inflatable ride companies are advocating for fee decreases, but their savings shouldn't be at the expense of other small businesses in the ride industry.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, the OFMA appreciates your consideration of this perspective.