

Testimony May 13, 2025 / 3:15PM / Opposing

Chairman Click, Vice Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and members of the House Community Revitalization Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to give testimony today.

My name is Scott Miller and I am a proud citizen of Sandusky County and currently serving my third term as county commissioner. Also serving as the current board president. With me are Commissioner Russ Zimmerman and Commissioner Charles Schwochow. Our county is represented in the State Senate by Bill Reineke who serves 11 counties total, including Seneca and Sandusky county. Our county is represented by State Representative Gary Click who serves two counties. Seneca and Sandusky counties. This is important to note because the author of SB147 is Senator Bill Reineke and the related HB222 is authored by Gary Click. Both bills have similar language asking for the counties wishing to exit a solid waste district to do so without unanimous approval from the district board as the current legislation reads. We are here to oppose SB147 as it is written. As written SB147 doesn't attempt to address or offer a solution for the fallout effect of allowing the dissolution of a solid waste district. Waste districts were built on legislation to create areas, or districts with a minimum of 120,000 residents who would benefit from a single waste facility in the district. The legislation that was passed ensured our great state of Ohio would have limited landfills, not creating one in each county. To achieve the 120,000 resident requirement, multiple counties were joined to make districts. Ottawa, Seneca and Sandusky counties combined to create OSS Waste District (Ottawa: 39, 803; Seneca County: 54,527; Sandusky County: 58,709) Total resident based on 2023 census: 153,039. The district was assigned a landfill in Ottawa County. For more than 10 years the Ottawa county landfill supplied the revenue stream for OSS Waste District. For multiple reasons, WIN Waste grew and eventually provided a greater revenue stream than the Ottawa County landfill for the OSS Waste District. WIN Waste is not a county landfill, it is a district waste landfill. The district does receive revenue from the WIN Waste landfill as it was intended. The district received revenue from Ottawa County Landfill for multiple years and but now, it's WIN Waste. The revenue supports the

“reduce, recycle, reuse” mandated programs that are required by the state and must be carried out by every district. Additionally, the district provides fiscal support to counties in the district when requested. Using proper procedures and practices the funds are made available for disbursement.

In 2023, the tonnage of residential and commercial solid waste generated in Sandusky County that was disposed at WIN Waste Landfill was 10,807 tons. The tonnage generated in Seneca County that was disposed at WIN Waste Landfill was 9,131 tons.

In the same year, the tonnage of residential and commercial solid waste generated in Seneca County that was disposed at the Crawford County landfill was 15,950 tons. Seneca County’s residential and commercial generators of solid waste used the Crawford County landfill more than they used the WIN Waste Landfill in Fostoria.

The 2022 data shows the same thing. The tonnage of residential and commercial solid waste generated in Sandusky County that was disposed at WIN Waste Landfill in 2022 was 13,077 tons. The tonnage generated in Seneca County that was disposed at WIN Waste Landfill was 12,760 tons.

To keep things in perspective, WIN Waste Landfill received 2,324,409 tons of waste in 2023; 2,234,396 tons originated outside Ohio of which 2,007,399 tons was pulverized C&DD. The combined tonnage of solid waste generated in Sandusky County and Seneca County that was disposed at WIN Waste Landfill is a very small percentage, (i.e., less than 2%) of the total tonnage of waste disposed at WIN Waste Landfill. (*EPA - Annual Operational Report)

OSS Support of Seneca County 2024

\$100,000.00 – Inspector for Landfill

\$40,000.00 – Solid Waste Illegal Dumping Funding

\$270,000.00 – Landfill Legal Expense

OSS Support of Seneca County 2025

\$500,000.00 – 2025 Budgeted for landfill legal issues in Seneca County.

\$100,000.00 – Inspector for the Landfill

\$40,000.00 – Solid Waste Illegal Dumping Funding

2 Year total support- 1.05 Million Dollars

Aim to be Green Drop off Sites per County (approximately \$800,000 annual cost)

Ottawa (12), Sandusky (13) and Seneca (17)*40 percent

Current Book Recycling Locations by County

Ottawa (5), Sandusky (4), and Seneca (15)*62 percent

Groups Serviced by the OSS Camp by County

Ottawa County (16), Sandusky County (28), Seneca County (40) *47 percent

In a waste district, the revenue comes from a waste facility. The solid waste district uses the revenue to operate as mandated. Given that Seneca County wants to leave the OSS Solid Waste District and in so doing, sever the revenue, Sandusky County would have to create a new waste district and revenue stream. While Seneca County has the potential to collect millions of dollars through fees generated through WIN Waste, Sandusky County will have no landfill to generate fees. Sandusky County has few options to meet the revenue demands of the mandated programs of the state being isolated in the event of the OSS Waste District dissolving. SB147 could create unwanted behavior that was curbed and would now be open to investigation. Counties throughout the state, like Sandusky County, who would be isolated without a revenue stream, could consider a landfill, but that is an very expensive solution that is not economically feasible. Another option would be taxing the public or creating a levy.

Another consideration assuming Seneca County withdraws from OSS District, the likely amount of governmental disposal fees Sandusky County residents and businesses will pay for the disposal of solid waste at WIN Waste landfill would change dramatically. Assuming the new Seneca County Solid Waste Management District will levy the maximum disposal fee allowed under ORC 3734.57(B) on solid waste disposed at WIN Waste. Sandusky County solid waste will now be "out-of-county waste," and therefore will be subject to a \$4/ton disposal fee on out-of-district waste. OSS Distict currently levies a \$1.50/ton fee on solid waste generated within OSS District that is disposed at WIN Waste. The Ohio EPA disposal fee on solid waste will continue to be \$4.75/ton. The Loudon Township disposal fee under ORC 3734.57(c) will be 25 cents/ton. Therefore, the total amount of government solid waste fees levied on

Sandusky County residential and commercial solid waste disposed at WIN Waste Landfill will be \$21/ton. That's a lot. Sandusky County generators currently pay a total of \$6.50/ton.

A concluding note, the current OSS Waste District has litigation in place to control the WIN Waste Landfill from expanding. The litigation is in the name of OSS and will end with the dissolve of the current OSS Waste District allowing WIN Waste to move forward with their expansion.

There may be reasons SB147 was initiated and those reasons may be valid to some. However, SB147 is focused on one solid waste district and it could have the potential impact to separate and dissolve waste districts throughout the state. The Commissioners of Sandusky County don't support SB147 as written and respectfully ask our Senator, Bill Reineke and our Representative, Gary Click for help. Consider the impact it has on counties that could be isolated like a county you represent should the bill pass. Respectfully consider adjustments, amendments, additions, to SB147 to better prepare and support counties like Sandusky County and the new districts that will be developed and won't have a revenue stream to support their mandated requirements.

Thank you Chairman Click, Vice Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and members of the House Community Revitalization Committee, for allowing me the opportunity to give opposing testimony today.