



**STRONGER COUNTIES. STRONGER OHIO.**

209 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4309

Phone: 614-221-5627 • Fax: 614-221-6986

Toll Free: 888-757-1904 • www.ccao.org

Cheryl Subler, Executive Director

**House Community Revitalization Committee**  
Senate Bill 147 – Interested Party Testimony  
Rachel Reedy, Outreach & Member Engagement Manager

May 20, 2025

Chairman Click, Vice Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and members of the House Community Revitalization Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill 147.

CCAO members are integrally involved in the management of solid waste across the state of Ohio. Solid waste management district (SWMD) governing boards are comprised of the county commissioners of the counties served by the district. CCAO members also serve on the policy committees that create solid waste management plans for each district. In addition to single county SWMDs, 51 counties work together in 15 joint SWMDs to provide these waste management services to their constituents.

Senate Bill 147 replaces the current process for a joint SWMD to split into multiple districts in R.C. 3734.521 with a new process. The current process requires all counties in the joint SWMD to approve the separation. In Senate Bill 147's new process, any county in a joint SWMD may unilaterally withdrawal from the joint district without approval from the other counties in the district. This change is a departure from current practice.

During any separation, continuity in waste management services to residents and businesses is crucial. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) included in Senate Bill 147 provides a mechanism for the counties involved to ensure those services will continue while the separation process occurs.

Regardless of the composition of the district, all SWMDs are required to have solid waste management plans and work towards the goals of the overall state plan. Funding is required to operate the district, provide services to residents, and meet these goals. When districts separate, the new districts will have to reconsider their fee and funding structures to provide these services.

A split of a district requires new solid waste management plans to be written, as well as new fee structures, new contract negotiations, and division of district assets among other decisions. These decisions take time and thoughtful deliberation from all parties. Senate Bill 147 allows two years for these steps to occur and requires the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to oversee the process. CCAO supports amendment language that would allow the current joint district to address costs of the solid waste management planning process for the two or more districts through the MOU process.

CCAO appreciates the communication from Senator Reineke, Chairman Click and committee members on the various provisions included in the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 147 and for your consideration of the proposed amendment.

