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**National Waste
& Recycling Association™**

Testimony Before the House Community Revitalization Committee Presented by the National Waste & Recycling Association – Ohio Chapter

Chairman Click, Vice Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and members of the House Community Revitalization Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today as an interested party on Senate Bill 147.

My name is Katie Raverty-Evans, and I am here on behalf of the National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA) and the members of our Ohio Chapter. NWRA is the leading voice of the private-sector waste and recycling industry, representing companies that collect and manage residential, commercial, and industrial waste and recyclables. Our members operate as an essential service in every corner of the state. We are proud to serve Ohio communities every day by keeping them clean, safe, and sustainable.

In Ohio, NWRA members range from small family-owned businesses to large regional and national companies. Together, they employ over seventeen (17) thousand Ohioans in a variety of roles - drivers, mechanics, engineers, recycling coordinators, safety trainers, and more. **The economic impact to the state from this industry is measured in billions of dollars. These are high-demand, skilled jobs that offer meaningful career opportunities, competitive pay and benefits, with upward mobility.**

Our industry leads innovation that supports economic viable sustainable solutions to Ohio and helps drive a reduced environmental impact and increased resource recovery. Whether a curbside recycling program or to modernized material recovery facilities, our members have invested in infrastructure that supports Ohio's economic development, public health, and environmental goals.

Ohio has a robust regulatory system in place led by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and supported by local solid waste and health districts. These oversight bodies put the health, safety and wellness of communities and people first. Goals we completely share and agree with. Our industry has been proud to work with the legislator, local officials, and the state EPA to protect the environment and provide essential waste and recycling services to communities, businesses, and residents across the buckeye state.

In principle we do not support fees as we do not desire to be a tax collector. However, we acknowledge the need to fund balanced well defined regulatory oversight.

This regulatory framework has been in place and funded by state and local disposal fees. It should be noted that Ohio's solid waste and construction and demolition disposal fees are higher than neighboring states Indiana (\$.60 per ton) and Michigan (\$.38 per ton). These are pass-up charges that our customers pay. In the last several years, the waste and recycling industry has made significant strides in meaningful investments across Ohio - including, state-of-the-art innovations that provide critical infrastructure while contributing to a circular economy in the state.

We share the goals of this General Assembly— making Ohio a leading Midwest state for jobs, growth, and investment. We would encourage you to keep in mind the impact government mandated waste fees have on economic development and your constituents.

We seek to serve as a resource. The waste and recycling industry is deeply connected to community well-being—whether through efficient waste removal, sustainable landfill management, or recycling systems that support manufacturing supply chains. We stand ready to support policies that foster strong, resilient, and vibrant communities across the state.

Finally, we want to extend an open invitation to all committee members and any member of the Ohio General Assembly: come visit our sites. See firsthand the work our members do—often 24/7—to manage Ohio’s waste streams, protect public health, and build a circular economy. Our drivers, workers, and facility operators take great pride in what they do, and we welcome the opportunity to show you how the industry works and where we can work together to make it even better.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions and look forward to continuing the conversation with you.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Raverty-Evans

Vice President, Chapter Relations

National Waste & Recycling Association