



**OHIO CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

May 20, 2025

Before the House Community Revitalization Committee
Interested Party Testimony Substitute Senate Bill 147

Chair Click, Vice-Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and distinguished members of the House Community Revitalization Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide interested party testimony for Substitute Senate Bill 147 on behalf of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. My name is Tony Long, General Counsel and Director of Energy & Energy Policy for the Ohio Chamber of Commerce.

My testimony is submitted before amendments were considered by the committee. If such amendments are considered today to target the permissive fees for Seneca County to address issues arising at facilities in that jurisdiction, it is the reason I submit this testimony as interested party instead of opponent. Thanks to this committee, the sponsors of SB 147, and sponsors to the companion House Bill continuing their work to find a public policy solution for the specific issues at hand. To date, neither the Ohio EPA, Ohio solid waste districts nor local public health departments have asked for increased funds to perform their functions. This tailored approach balances the needs of a local community with the statewide impact a wider permissive fee may have on waste haulers, businesses and consumers.

Regarding the statewide policies surrounding waste materials, the Ohio Chamber would suggest increasing the use of recycling facilities to repurpose materials for additional goods produced by Ohio manufacturers or lean into new technologies to turn solid waste into energy. These steps could alleviate the need for additional fees.

The waste to energy technologies would divert recyclables then convert the remaining solid waste into electricity. Placement of 170 of these waste to energy facilities could capture over 90% of the waste currently slated for landfills and solid waste districts. This approach may better address the issue of out of state waste and proper handling of waste streams throughout Ohio.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments as the committee deliberates SB 147. I will now try to answer any questions you may have for me.