



Seneca County General Health District
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April 1, 2025

RE: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 147

Chairman Shaffer, Vice Chair Koehler, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee;

I would like to speak on behalf of Harold Huffman who is our Director of Environmental Sciences and Landfill Oversight. Mr. Huffman was hired into the Landfill Division in January of 2025. In the two months he has been involved with the landfill, he has encountered numerous concerns. Please see the attached photos. I will discuss the following bullet points to help me illustrate our need for additional funds and resources by which Senate Bill 147 will help us achieve.

- Two leachate spills of which involved numerous hours of oversight and the reason why Mr. Huffman can not be here to speak to you in person today.
- Train/railcar derailment in our county which could have been another East Palestine situation. Mr. Huffman was one of the few individuals in Seneca County with the knowledge and ability to help mitigate the threat to the community. His oversight is what allowed Seneca County to be involved and ensure that the contaminated soil was safe for disposal at WIN-Waste as the railroad is the entity that gets to decide where the soil should go.
- As the local, boots-on-the ground regulatory entity, our staff (Harold Huffman) is more readily available and therefore pro-active to being onsite to best serve the concerns of the nearby residents, provide associated education and protect the environment of Seneca County
- Since the middle of January, Mr. Huffman has conducted more than twenty site visits including a variety of focused inspections and monitoring of the perimeter as well as provided knowledge and oversight to the leachate remediation
- Plans moving forward involve additional equipment, possibly staff, and applying for collaborative grants to enhance the work we are doing



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Chairman Schaffer,

Vice Chair Koehler,

Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson,

And members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to give testimony today in support of Senate Bill 147.

I have served the residents of Seneca County and Fostoria since January of this year to best provide proactive and comprehensive oversight regarding the operations of the Win-Waste landfill in our community. As an entity that is charged with regulating a facility, it is the responsible and prudent approach that as the facility grows larger the team that regulates it must also increase in size to enforce regulatory compliance. We must pass Senate Bill 147 to ensure that the citizens who reside across Seneca County have a dedicated team in place that implements an applicable scientific monitoring program to ensure the health of these families and maintains the highest levels of environmental integrity possible. Furthermore, the team that conducts this work requires modern scientific equipment, it is necessary that the funds from SB 147 serve the residents of Seneca County to meet this objective. I have the great fortune to be able to hear from our citizens and address their questions and concerns about environmental quality, potentialities to impact their families' health, and the possibly related chronic stress impacts the facility's operation has on their families' mental health. They deserve to have proactive and component insight to these variables and the SCGHD requires the funds that SB 147 will provide to these wonderful citizens. This bill is a crucial element in allowing us to achieve these objectives, now and into the future. SB 147 will allow us to identify issues, improve environmental conditions, ensure comprehensive education and data is shared, and to remediate incidents in a swift and thorough manner here in Seneca County reducing the potential for an incident occurring here expanding to impact other counties and the families that live there.







