

OFFICIAL WRITTEN TESTIMONY

In Support of House Bill 433 – Fee Revision

Submitted To: Ohio Senate Subcommittee on Agriculture

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Chairman, Vice Chair, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this official written testimony in support of the fee revision provisions within House Bill 433.

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of small amusement and rental operators across Ohio who have operated under an inequitable inspection fee structure for more than 24 years.

Core Principle of HB 433

Inspection fees should reflect actual inspection time.

Under the current system, they do not.

A bounce house may take approximately 20 minutes to inspect. A large roller coaster or major amusement ride can require multiple days of inspection time. Yet the fee allocation does not proportionally reflect those differences in workload.

As a result, smaller operators have been subsidizing the inspection costs of large amusement parks and major ride operators for over two decades.

Department Time Study Confirmation

The Ohio Department of Ride Safety was tasked with conducting a non-biased statewide time study. Their findings confirmed that the current fee structure is disproportionate and does not align with actual inspection hours.

The Department recommended transitioning to a time-based inspection fee model.

House Bill 433 implements that recommendation.

Fairness Applies in Both Directions

I own several small family rides. Under a time-based system, my inspection fees for those rides will increase. I am willing to pay my fair share.

Other companies should not subsidize my rides, and I should not be subsidizing billion-dollar parks.

This legislation does not shift burden — it corrects imbalance.

Addressing Opposition

Opposition has been voiced by Cedar Fair and by GOSA, which owns Ferris wheels and operates county fairs.

Cedar Fair is a multi-billion-dollar enterprise operating large-scale amusement parks. Many of the businesses affected by the current imbalance are small, family-owned companies. The inspection fee structure should not require small operators to subsidize corporations of that scale.

HB 433 does not reduce safety standards, eliminate inspections, or favor one sector over another. It ensures inspection fees are based strictly on actual inspection time.

In response to concerns raised by GOSA, this legislation applies a neutral time-based standard across the board. If a Ferris wheel requires more inspection time, the fee should reflect that time. If it requires less, it should cost less. The same standard applies to every operator.

Closing Statement

This is not about shifting costs. It is about correcting them.

The Department's own time study confirmed the imbalance and recommended change.

If a ride takes longer to inspect, it should cost more. If it takes less time, it should cost less.

That is proportional responsibility.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support the fee revision language in House Bill 433 and restore fairness to Ohio's ride inspection system.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Chapman

Owner, A&S Party Rental