



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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the inspection fee revisions outlined in House Bill 433.

My name is Curtis Lovell II, Founder and CEO of Awesome Family Entertainment LLC, located at 1250 Memory Lane, Columbus, Ohio 43209.

I started this business in 1996, shortly after high school, when I began planning events for our student council. What began as organizing school events evolved into building relationships with vendors and coordinating entertainment services. Over time, I began acquiring our own equipment, growing from a small event planning operation into a full-service company. Today, Awesome Family Entertainment LLC employs a significant number of people across the state of Ohio and supports thousands of events each year.

I am writing in support of aligning inspection fees with the actual time required to perform inspections.

### **Appropriate Cost Should Reflect Inspection Time**

Under the current system, inspection fees are not aligned with the actual time required to inspect different types of amusement equipment. Smaller attractions such as inflatables and event rental rides can often be inspected in a short period of time, while large amusement rides may require significantly more time, resources, and oversight.

Despite this, the fee structure has historically applied similar or disproportionate costs regardless of inspection time. A time-based approach ensures that costs are directly tied to the work being performed. The new structure of fees were developed from a non-biased time study conducted by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the agency responsible for amusement ride inspections. The study evaluated actual inspection time, staffing requirements, and associated labor to perform inspections across different ride types.

### **Real-World Cost vs. Time Discrepancy**

In my own experience, I have written inspection checks exceeding \$5,000 for a single inspection cycle, where the total inspection time was only a matter of hours. It is important to understand that this is not the total annual cost—it is only the starting point of many \$5,000 checks.

Our company, like many others in this industry, undergoes multiple inspections throughout the

year in order to operate, manage seasonal demand, and balance scheduling. These costs accumulate quickly and are not aligned with the actual time spent performing inspections. A time-based model would directly connect these costs to the actual inspection effort, rather than applying charges that are disconnected from the time and resources involved.

## **Impact on Local Communities**

When additional costs are placed on event rental companies, those costs do not stay with the business—they are passed along to our clients.

This directly affects:

- City schools
- Community events
- Church socials
- Local businesses and nonprofits

These organizations rely on affordable entertainment options to bring people together. Increased operating costs reduce access to these experiences across Ohio communities.

## **Competitive Imbalance in the Industry**

When inspection fees are not tied to actual inspection time, it creates a distortion in the marketplace.

Event rental companies absorb a disproportionate share of inspection-related costs relative to the time required for their inspections. At the same time, larger amusement ride operators benefit from a structure that does not fully reflect the time required for more complex inspections.

This imbalance allows certain segments of the industry to be more competitive based on fee structure—not operational efficiency.

## **Addressing Concerns Raised by Large Operators**

Concerns have been raised by larger operators, including organizations such as Cedar Fair and GOSA, suggesting that changes to the fee structure could shift costs or create unintended consequences.

House Bill 433 does not introduce new or arbitrary costs. It aligns fees with actual inspection time. If a ride requires more time to inspect, the cost reflects that time. If it requires less time, the cost is lower.

Large-scale amusement operations involve more complex systems, larger footprints, and longer inspection durations. A time-based model accounts for that complexity rather than distributing

those costs across unrelated segments of the industry. Inspection standards, protocols, and safety oversight remain unchanged under this approach. The only change is how inspection time is measured and how fees are applied to reflect that time.

## **Industry Experience and Inspector Perspective**

Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to work with many state inspectors. These are knowledgeable professionals who take pride in ensuring safety across our industry.

In conversations over the years, many have acknowledged that the current structure does not align with the actual time required for inspections. There is a general understanding at the operational level that inflatable and event rental companies have been carrying a disproportionate share of the fee structure relative to inspection time.

## **Conclusion**

House Bill 433 represents a practical update to an outdated system.

It aligns inspection fees with actual inspection time, ensures costs reflect the work being performed, and reduces unintended impacts on local businesses and community organizations.

This is not about reducing safety standards or avoiding responsibility. It is about applying a cost structure that accurately reflects inspection effort.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Curtis Lovell II  
Founder & CEO  
Awesome Family Entertainment LLC  
1250 Memory Lane  
Columbus, Ohio 43209