

Proponent Testimony Substitute House Bill 49
Gary Moser, Owner and CEO Roanna Family Farms LLC
Ohio Senate Finance Committee
June 6, 2017

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and Members of the Ohio Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

My name is Gary Moser. I am a farmer from Van Wert County, Ohio. I am a Republican and I believe in the vision and your strong leadership to reduce regulations that only create barriers for our agricultural businesses and adversely affect the opportunity for economic growth in our community.

Consider these scenarios and decide whose rights are in play.

- A neighbor's tree with a branch so low it overhangs onto the field and machinery cannot travel beneath it, or the huge branch breaks and falls into the field of planted corn, or the branch is full of apples that are ready to harvest.
- A neighbor practices his golf swing by hitting dozens of balls into my field directly across the road and wants his balls back when I pick them up.
- A neighbor burns a huge trash pile in the corner of his yard so close to the field of soybeans planted that it scorches the plants.
- Snowmobiles driving over the snow-covered winter wheat crop.
- A neighbor's children play hide and seek in the wheat field, soybean field, or corn field breaking healthy plant stems.
- Sheets of metal from the neighbor's building lay for days in the field after a storm.
- An abandoned Christmas tree hidden in ready-to-harvest corn plugs the corn picker.

Farmers, myself included, have already experienced these scenarios and many others in any given planting or harvest season. The point I want to make is that Ohio already has laws in place to protect landowner rights that handle these issues. Setback laws of any distance are repetitive to the laws that already exist to protect both sides. Making more regulations is not should not be the government's aim.

Property lines do not have a neutral or buffer zone. I don't see two yards that touch one another have a buffer strip of unmowed grass down the center. I pay the property tax, maintain the land, and take the risk on every acre of land that I own; therefore, it should be my individual right to determine how best to use my acreage and sustain my farming business. I urge you to respect the rights of all landowners and deregulate setbacks. Thank you for your time.