

**Tim Smith** AIGA Fellow

Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, Representative Catherine Ingram and Members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee  
Ohio General Assembly  
77 S High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: HB 253 – Fireworks Legalization and Regulation

Dear Chairman Manning, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, Representative Catherine Ingram and Members of the House Commerce and Labor Committee:

My name is Tim Smith and I am a lifetime resident of Ohio and a constituent of the Honorable Catherine Ingram in District 32. I am president of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky chapter of the Foundation Fighting Blindness and a member of the Board of Trustees for CABVI (the Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired).

I oppose HB 253 because I feel its passage would pose an imminent threat to the physical and emotional health and well-being of Ohio residents, as similar laws have in other states. I know from personal experience that it will lead to undue anxiety for our animals, including domestic, wildlife and livestock; and as we are witnessing during the current climate of unrest and unlawful demonstrations, fireworks will, and are, being used as weapons against law enforcement. Legal and more easily accessible fireworks will only make these situations worse than they are currently.

My wife and I were fortunate enough to have built our dream house on the banks of the Ohio River six years ago. We have worked very hard throughout our careers and have made great sacrifices to live here and enjoy the beauty of the river as I lose my vision to an inherited retinal disease. However, living across the river from a state with very lax fireworks laws has demonstrated to us just how harmful consumer grade fireworks can be. Throughout much of the year, and at all hours of the day and night, our lives are disrupted by loud explosions from Dayton, Kentucky residents setting off fireworks. Our pets literally quiver and cower for hours on end and no medication nor treatments have been effective. We had hoped to live in this home through our retirement years, but are already considering a move, in large part due to the inconsiderate behavior of our neighbors to the south and how it has negatively impacted our quality of life. The idea of residents being able to set off fireworks - especially without strict regulation and limitations is incomprehensible.

I ask that you remove this Bill from consideration, knowing that by doing so you will save many Ohio residents from serious injury and even death. A response would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



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Cincinnati, Ohio 45202