

HB 171 Proponent Testimony
Angela Carbetta, Director, Keep Marion County Beautiful

House Economic & Workforce Development Committee

Chair Baldrige, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, I am Angela Carbetta. I am here today to offer our support for HB 171, which we believe will further the community-based work of Keep Ohio Beautiful.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Keep Ohio Beautiful and our local affiliate, Keep Marion County Beautiful.

This June will mark my twentieth year with the Marion County Recycling & Litter Prevention program, but my experience with Keep America Beautiful (KAB) goes back to the early 1970's, participating in community litter clean-up and beautification projects at school and in Girl Scouts. My mother was our troop leader. All these years later, I still think of her every time we head out with a new group of volunteers to keep this movement going. According to the 2019 KAB Annual Report, "Keep America Beautiful returned \$305 million of economic benefit to the communities we serve through the work of nearly 2.3 million volunteers putting in 11.9 million volunteer hours."

Marion County became an official Keep Ohio Beautiful affiliate in 2014. It is a wonderful feeling to be part of such a well-established, highly regarded organization. That makes a big difference with fundraising and recruiting volunteers. People know and love Keep America Beautiful. The reaction is always positive.

As a local affiliate director, I have come to appreciate even more about Keep Ohio Beautiful. Not only does the organization bring a long history of public service and experience to the table, but also a great deal of professional support and tangible resources. Affiliate benefits include litter clean-up supplies, recycling containers for special events, volunteer training, leader workshops, advertising assistance, and numerous grant opportunities. The annual Great American Clean-Up kicks off this week. I'm sure many of your communities are already involved and ready to go.

It is an honor and privilege to work with so many dedicated people here in Ohio. Mike Menett, our KOB Executive Director, is always available, helpful, and supportive. I am so happy to be here with him and all of you today discussing the prospect of a Keep Ohio Beautiful license plate campaign. What an ideal way to raise awareness and funding at the same time. Best of all, those benefits go right back into local communities for clean-up, beautification, zero-waste, and recycling programs.

KAB's combined vision of corporate and civic leaders since 1953 is truly beautiful. In preparing for today's conversation, I reviewed the mission statement: *Thriving communities. Safer neighborhoods. New businesses. We don't clean up communities just to keep America Beautiful. We clean up so Americans can do beautiful things.*

We appreciate all that you are doing here at the state level and back home in your own cities, counties, towns, and villages to help keep Ohio beautiful. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this proposal.

Sincerely,

Angela



KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

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