



State Representative Brian Stewart
Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 154
March 16th, 2021

Chairman Baldrige, Vice-Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, thank-you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony in favor of House Bill 154, which would create the “Circleville Pumpkin Show” license plate in the State of Ohio.

The Circleville Pumpkin Show, also known as “The Greatest Free Show on Earth,” is one of Ohio’s longest running and most famous festivals. Beginning in 1903 the Circleville Pumpkin Show has been held every year since with the exception of 3 years during World War I and World War II, and last year as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. The Show routinely hosts 400,000-500,000 visitors each year to enjoy 9 city blocks’ worth of pumpkin-themed food, crafts, games, rides, and live entertainment. The Circleville Pumpkin Show is the sixth largest festival in the country and was recognized by Time magazine as one of the top 50 cultural events in all of America.

The Circleville Pumpkin Show is beloved across the state of Ohio and is an immense source of pride for the city, for the surrounding Pickaway County, and all of central Ohio. From the lines which extend down Main Street to see the World’s Largest Pumpkin Pie and get pumpkin donuts from Lindsey’s Bakery, to the Giant Pumpkin Weigh-In competition featuring pumpkins that routinely tip the scales above 1,000 pounds each, to twice daily parades, and the scores of food stands organized by countless churches, community organizations, school boosters, and small businesses, the Circleville Pumpkin Show is a proud family tradition for numerous generations of Ohioans.

Approving House Bill 154 will give Ohioans a fun, tangible way to express the pride we share in the Circleville Pumpkin Show and to help us tell a great Ohio story all across our state and nation. I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of House Bill 154 and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.