

**Greater Ohio Showmen's Association**  
**P.O. Box 43**  
**Pataskala, OH 43062**

October 27, 2021

House Bill 215  
Proponent testimony  
Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee



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Chairman Rulli, Vice Chairman Lang, Ranking Member Sykes and all members of the Senate Small Business and Economic Opportunity Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide supportive comments on House Bill 215 on behalf of the Greater Ohio Showmen's Association. The GOSA is a group of over 400 members across the state of Ohio who represent the Outdoor Amusement Industry. Our membership is comprised of individuals, families and small businesses that own and operate the various rides, games and food concessions you find at local fairs and events across our state.

Early in the pandemic, the health orders and closures picked winners and losers. I am sorry to say, the members of the GOSA were the losers. As you heard from the sponsors last week, all businesses are essential. To our members, this is a livelihood and a family endeavor. The closure and cancellations of fairs and festivals left us rudderless and without a way to make ends meet. Some food concessions were able to operate in limited fashion at some county fairs and some were able to be creative in finding other ways to generate income. But it paled in comparison to a "normal" year.

As for rides, it was difficult for our members to understand why an Ohioan could enjoy an amusement ride at one of the large parks, but our mobile rides were prohibited from operating at all in 2020. House Bill 215 would ensure parity going forward. There is no reason our members couldn't adhere to the same safety protocols of other similar businesses.

We are pleased to report we are having a more "normal" season in 2021 and we were able to offer Ohioan's fun and safe entertainment. However, we can't make up completely for what was lost in 2020. House Bill 215 is an important piece of legislation to ensure that in the future all businesses are given the same opportunity to operate and remain financially solvent. We ask for the legislature's favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Drake'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Drake, President