

Frank LaRose
State Senator
27th District



Ohio Senate

Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, Room 221
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-4823

Senate Bill 223 Sponsor Testimony
Senate Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee
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Chairman Uecker, Vice Chair Wilson, Ranking Member Thomas, and distinguished members of the Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 223 this morning. This legislation will prohibit a supplier from installing unsafe used tires in Ohio. SB 223 will protect consumers from an increased risk of tire failure that can lead to loss of vehicle control.

Current law requires that tires used on motor vehicles have a minimum tread depth of one sixteenth of one inch and be free of major bumps or bulges, breaks, thrown tread, or any condition which would constitute an unsafe condition. If Ohioans can't drive on unsafe used tires, businesses shouldn't be allowed to install them.

SB 223 has the support of Ohio tire manufacturing companies Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, Cooper Tire and Rubber Company, and Bridgestone Americas, Inc. Under our bill, it would be unlawful for a business to install tires on a vehicle which fall under any of the unsafe conditions listed below:

- Tires that are worn-out to 2/32nds tread or lower
- Tires with damage that exposes the inner components of the tire such as the body plies or the steel belts
- Tires with damage to the inner liner (the component of the tire that holds air and keeps the tire inflated)
- Tires that are not repaired to basic industry standard
- Tires with damage that has been addressed through the use of a tire sealant but not properly repaired with a patch and plug

Under SB 223, installing an "unsafe used tire" would be considered an unconscionable consumer sales act or practice and a minor misdemeanor. People guilty of the minor misdemeanor offense, will be required to pay a fine not exceeding \$1,000. We have worked with the interested parties

to craft this language to ensure that roadside assistance companies can continue to help stranded motorists.

It is important to note that not all used tires would be banned under this legislation. More than 30 million tires enter the used tire market annually. This proposal is a common-sense approach that targets several specific, unsafe tire conditions that put consumers at risk. Millions of used tires would still enter the market annually under this proposal. Additionally, this bill would not impact a consumer's ability to install any tire they choose on a vehicle; further, the legislation is structured to accommodate for off road usage such as agriculture trailers.

Thank you, Chairman Uecker and members of the committee, for allowing me to speak to this bill. We would be happy to answer any questions at this time.