

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: MAY 1, 2019

Name: DANIEL FREDERICK, MILAN TOWNSHIP TROSTEE

Are you representing: Yourself _____ Organization

Organization (If Applicable): ERIE COUNTY TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION

Position/Title: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Address: 49 S MAIN STREET

City: MILAN State: OHIO Zip: 44846

Best Contact Telephone: 419.835.5148 Email: DAN@FREDERICKARCHITECTS.COM

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No _____

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 74

Specific Issue: JUNK WATERCRAFT

Are you testifying as a: Proponent Opponent _____ Interested Party _____

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes YES No NO _____

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 5-10 MINUTES

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

WE SUPPORT HB 74 WHICH GIVES TOWNSHIPS LOCAL AUTHORITY TO ADDRESS JUNK WATERCRAFT

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

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Colleen Arthur

May 1, 2019

OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Good afternoon Chairman Wiggam and members of the State and Local Government Committee. My name is Dan Frederick and I am chairman of the Milan Township Board of Trustees. On behalf of the Erie County Township Association and other townships along the shores of Lake Erie, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to testify as a proponent of House Bill 74.

This proposed bill will allow townships permissive local authority to control abandoned watercraft in a similar manner to that which current law allows townships to effectively handle abandoned cars. I would argue that junk boats and junk cars present exactly the same problems, such as environmental concerns involving leaking fluids and deteriorating components, being dilapidated and unstable structures for curious kids to climb and explore which can quickly turn into an entrapment danger, providing an attractive home for rodents such as raccoons and pests such as nesting bees and mosquito larva, being a vandalism target and potentially dangerous fire hazard, and finally, just being an eyesore for adjacent property owners, other township residents, and area visitors.

Currently, dealing with the problem of abandoned boats is often turned over to the health department. Unfortunately, the health department has no authority to abate unacceptable aesthetic problems. Rather, they must interpret junk boats only as a health nuisance and attempt to enforce rules in a uniform manner across the entire county. I would recommend that township trustees and local zoning officials are in the best position to effectively deal with the problem of abandoned watercraft. Generally, local trustees have personal relationships with township residents which can help diffuse arguments and aid in finding a positive resolution for many problems. Most importantly, township trustees would have the ability to enforce local standards and interpret their community's tolerance for aesthetic matters such as abandoned watercraft.

Although the presence of abandoned watercraft certainly increases in areas such as Erie and Ottawa Counties which are near large bodies of water, this problem occurs to some extent in jurisdictions across the State of Ohio. Regarding the details of the bill, I would suggest that the proposed definition, the notification process, and all penalties associated with enforcement of this bill would prove to be effective and fair since they are modeled after existing laws related to junk cars.

Chairman Wiggam and members of this committee, I recommend that the authority granted by this proposed junk watercraft bill will give township trustees another effective tool to better protect the health, welfare, and safety of Ohio residents. Thank you again for your time and consideration of the positive impact of enacting this helpful legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Frederick', is written over the typed name.

Daniel Frederick, chairman of Milan Township Board of Trustees