



Ohio Campground Owners Association, Inc.

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Privately owned and operated campgrounds serving Ohio's recreational needs

Chairman Koehler, Vice Chairman Creech, Ranking Member Brent and all members of the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit supportive testimony regarding House Bill 464 to eliminate the asset management program for public water systems under the Ohio EPA. The Ohio Campground Owners Association, which represents privately owned and operated campgrounds in the state, is a proponent of this legislation to eliminate what we view as an unneeded requirement on our businesses.

The OCOA values the importance of clean reliable water sources. However, our members operate small water systems which are a small part of their operation. Water systems are not their primary business or source of revenue. We view the asset management program as overly burdensome with little benefit to the public. The forms required to comply with the asset management program require our members that operate a water system to submit extensive financial information to the Ohio EPA. The State should not be requiring the submission of budgeting information of privately owned businesses.

We believe that when the law was passed to create the asset management program the intended entities for compliance were the large publicly owned and operated water systems. However, the law defines public water systems much more broadly and captures many water systems that are privately owned, but services our customers, i.e. members of the public. Our campgrounds do not receive any public funds to operate our water systems.

Eliminating the asset management program does not absolve our members with water systems from complying with all water quality laws. Nor does eliminating this administrative requirement remove Ohio EPA's authority from shutting down our systems or requiring us to mitigate any water quality issues. HB 464 would simply remove unneeded paperwork and an administrative requirement.

We urge the committee to pass this legislation.