

I would like to state my support for Senator Reineke's bill SB119. The bill is instrumental in bringing the funding back to the local counties shouldering the vast majority of problems and health concerns of the dump. The 3 county solid waste organizations that vote 2 to 1 to always expand our landfill and take 2/3rds of the fees from the landfill. Allowing counties, with the most to lose while also providing the majority of funding in these organizations, to 'opt out' of these unfair terms.

The US EPA has concluded that, "All landfills eventually leak". The following is a quote from,

**The Norman Landfill Environmental Research Site What Happens to the Waste in Landfills**

U.S. Geological Survey Fact Sheet 040-03. August 2003 By Scott C. Christenson and Isabelle M. Cozzarelli

"Federal and state regulations were passed in the 1980s and 1990s to manage disposal of solid waste. Those regulations require that most landfills use liners and leachate collection systems to minimize the seepage of leachate to ground water. Although liners and leachate collection systems minimize leakage, liners can fail and leachate collection systems may not collect all the leachate that escapes from a landfill. Leachate collection systems require maintenance of pipes, and pipes can fail because they crack, collapse, or fill with sediment. The USEPA has concluded that all landfills eventually will leak into the environment ([U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1988](#)). Thus, the fate and transport of leachate in the environment, from both old and modern landfills, is a potentially serious environmental problem."

Clearly landfills need local oversight by those most impacted by their existence. These returned funds will be useful since we now have a Board of Health made up largely of concerned members who are not afraid to investigate the complaints of residents or to stand up to Sunny Farms when required. They seem to genuinely care about the health and quality of life of the residents of Seneca county. This Board has been, and continues to be, brave in the face of this corporate 'Goliath'; not cowed into submission like the previous boards. They are starting to use the funds to actually institute real oversight and monitoring of the landfill. I was always a fan of Ronald Reagan's take on the old Russian proverb, "Trust but verify." Given all of Sunny Farms violations, citations and settlements, over the years; it is true that, at this moment, the "Trust" part is severely lacking. In such a situation, a responsible person always

verifies the other party's actions. So, the board are having funds to install their own electronic air quality monitoring equipment rather than rely on the Landfill to monitor themselves with no independent arbiter to check their results. This type of thing is what the Board of Health should be doing. Just imagine, if in East Palestine they had a local agency checking the rails and testing the equipment on the railroad around their city. This entity had funds allocated to it specifically for this purpose. Might the second set of eyes have caught the faulty heat sensor and avoided the entire incident? The chances would have certainly been better. The additional funds made available from this bill would go a long way toward this end. This is what the Seneca County Board of Health are trying to do, to my mind. Two eyes are better than one looking at a problem. Especially if one eye may be monetarily motivated not to see a problem.

Thank you,  
Terry Love