

## Proponent testimony SB 119

Honorable Chairman Kick, Vice Chair Lear, Ranking Member Rogers, Representatives: Brent, Cross, Denson, Hillyer, Lightbody, Loychik, Miller, Ray, Robb, Blasdel, and Stein.

I would like to provide the committee with some history on this issue we now face in Ohio. In 2018, the state EPA officials had to step in to address the community during a huge public forum due to extremely high hydrogen sulfide emissions. Senator Reineke was in attendance at that meeting, along with about 700 angry citizens. The landfill CEO actually flew in on his private jet. The high ranking officials of the state EPA admitted that they had no “real world solution to a very complex problem” and they were calling in other states to try to help find solutions, but there was no immediate relief. We were all told, they were “very sorry” and we should just “avoid the gas”. They handed out flyers from the state board of health that explained the health effects of Hydrogen Sulfide, while the landfill owners continue to claim to this day that we have no health concerns. It was impossible for residents to avoid the gas that seeped into their lungs daily, and was reported up to 10 miles away. If we have Ohio revised code and rules in place for “best management practices”, why weren’t they followed and how does a situation like this ever happen? How did the OEPA allow this business to get so far out of compliance at the expense of the health of the entire community? The damage cannot be undone. How did the landfill ever pass inspections if the problem was so massive even the state officials had no solution? The landfill itself was publicly apologizing for their admitted mismanagement and making promises to improve. Meanwhile they never were told to cease operations or to even slow down. The profits kept rolling in for them, while residents were trying to find ways to get away, or pay their doctors bills. We have all come to realize that the OEPA is derelict in duty and that we need more local control and more funding for experienced oversight in order to handle the local control if we are going to allow MEGA sized landfills to expand indefinitely. The mountains are too steep to climb to observe ground cover depth or to fight fires that are common. We understand the effects that runoff have on Lake Erie. The farmers have been carrying the burden of blame, while these massive toxic mountains are completely ignored while sitting very close to our waterways. It’s time we look into the effects of shipping millions of tons of unknown toxic debris into our state in unlined railcars. We are losing valuable farmland to benefit out of state businessmen. While you may be hearing that these problems were in the past, it couldn’t be further from the truth. They are growing every day and our problems are becoming exponentially worse. The issue of odors may wind up being the least of our concerns. We are hearing from many other areas that are affected by this issue including Harrison and New Lexington, Ohio. The East Coast is solving their waste problems by transferring them to us by rail. Soon we will be facing massive clean-up costs that the profits will not offset. This most definitely is a state problem, not a local issue. Lora Wolph, Fostoria, Ohio