

*Good morning, Chair Kick, Vice-Chair Lear, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.*

*My name is Dr. Clay Wolph and I serve as president of the Seneca County Board of Health.*

*The City of Fostoria and Seneca County are facing major challenges with a massive landfill that brings a majority of their waste, construction and demolition debris, from out of state. In fact, approximately 98 percent of the waste that comes into our community is from out of state. This particular waste also makes up 96 percent of the total tonnage received by the current three-county solid waste district. This bill would require the solid waste district to forward the fees generated for the disposal of C&DD to the board of health of the health district in which the C&DD or solid waste facility that collected the fee is located. Right now, the fees are distributed among three counties, one of which doesn't have a landfill, and the other in which doesn't collect out-of state waste or C&DD.*

*These fees are necessary and much needed for counties like Seneca County to generate the resources to properly monitor such a massive landfill. These fees should not be distributed to another county or counties that don't even account for five percent of the district's total tonnage.*

*Ohio has never faced this type of situation with massive landfills that we are facing today.*

*Twenty years ago, landfills handled municipal waste. Because of the lack of oversight, Ohio has now grown to become a very attractive state for other states to ship their waste and construction and demolition debris by rail.*

*Regardless of the outcome of Senate Bill 119, I urge all of you to take a look at the solid waste laws in Ohio. Landfills accepting out of state waste are very profitable businesses for their owners, but unfortunately, they negatively affect our residents' health and the health of the environment in so many devastating ways. Ohio is not equipped with resources to manage and monitor these large landfill operations. I am very concerned that while other states have updated laws to protect their environment, water quality, air quality and the health of the residents, Ohio is lagging behind. I am very concerned that by the time we realize that we need better laws to monitor these massive landfills, it's too late. We need the necessary resources going to the right county to properly monitor these massive operations and to protect the health of residents and the environment.*

*I urge you to pass Senate Bill 119.*