

5.1.24 SB 119 Statement for Jay Gretsinger

Chairman Kick, Vice Chair Lear, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee—thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 119. My name is Jay Gretsinger and I am the current owner of Absolute Multi Services in Carey, Ohio, which hauls local waste into WIN Waste Innovations Seneca County. I have more than 20 years of hauling waste and previously owned and operated Double K, which also hauled into WIN Waste.

As a longstanding member of our community and a veteran in the waste-hauling industry, I am compelled to voice my strong opposition to Senate Bill 119. This proposed legislation, aimed at increasing taxes on waste-hauling services, presents a significant threat to the sustainability of local businesses.

Throughout my years of service, I've witnessed firsthand the vital role waste-hauling companies play in maintaining the cleanliness and functionality of our communities. From residential neighborhoods to commercial districts, we ensure waste is responsibly managed and disposed of in an environmentally conscious manner. Our services are not just about removing trash; they contribute to public health, sanitation, and the overall well-being of our society.

The imposition of additional taxes, as proposed in SB 119, would place an undue burden on local businesses operating in an already challenging industry. These increased costs would inevitably be passed on to consumers, resulting in higher prices for essential waste management services. Such a scenario threatens the financial viability of businesses and creates an additional financial strain on residents and businesses already dealing with economic uncertainties.

The timing of such a tax hike is particularly concerning given the ongoing recovery efforts from a turbulent economic environment. Many businesses are still struggling to regain their footing from the pandemic, and the implementation of SB 119 would only exacerbate their financial hardships.

I urge policymakers to explore alternative solutions that promote sustainability without jeopardizing the livelihoods of hardworking entrepreneurs. Collaborative efforts between government entities, waste management industries, and community stakeholders can lead to more effective and equitable strategies for waste management and environmental conservation.

If I may add one more thought as I close my testimony it would be that I often hear and constantly see on social media that people living around the landfill feel each state should take care of their own MSW and C&D. They have the right to say that but what they are NOT talking about is the millions of tons of MSW & C&D that is generated in the state of Ohio but is disposed of in another state.

In conclusion, I firmly oppose SB 119 and its proposed tax increases on waste-hauling services. I call upon legislators to reconsider this misguided approach and seek solutions that support the continued operation of local businesses while advancing our shared goals of environmental stewardship and community well-being.