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**House Energy and Natural Resources Committee**  
Substitute Senate Bill 119 – Interested Party Testimony  
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Chairman Kick, Vice Chair Lear, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Substitute Senate Bill 119.

CCAO members are integrally involved in the management of solid waste across the state of Ohio. Solid waste management district (SWMD) governing boards are comprised of the county commissioners of the counties served by the district. CCAO members serve on the policy committees that create solid waste management plans for each district. In addition to single county SWMDs, several counties have opted to work together in 15 joint SWMDs to provide these waste management services to their constituents.

CCAO has concerns about the unilateral withdrawal provision contained in Sub. Senate Bill 119. Current law outlines a process for a joint SWMD to split into multiple districts. This process is outlined in R.C. 3734.521 and has been successfully used by districts to split in the past. The process outlined in the Revised Code for the split of a district was designed to facilitate conversation between the counties in the partnership and, hopefully, prevent unintended consequences while ensuring vital services remain available to the consumers in the district. The expedited 180-day timeline for a district to separate and form two or more fully functioning SWMDs in Sub. Senate Bill 119 will be disruptive and extremely challenging. A split of districts requires new solid waste management plans to be written, as well as new fee structures, new contract negotiations, and division of district assets among other decisions. Additionally, counties work together on joint boards in many different systems. We are concerned about the precedent this unilateral withdrawal provision sets for other partnerships. While the substitute bill does require a meeting of the SWMD governing board to take place before the withdrawal process can commence, we are still concerned about the overall process.

CCAO appreciates the opportunity to share concerns and solutions and we are committed to continuing those discussions. Thank you for your consideration.

