

Senate bill 119 is the least that you can do for the people whose lives have been directly impacted by a problem that Ohio has ignored for too long. Allowing another expansion with 4 million tons of waste a year being dumped on one township is insane. We do not need expansion. Instead we need to take the reins of this situation, as many other states are doing, and reduce the allowed daily tonnage, of out of state waste, rather than increasing it. I understand the reluctance, no one wants more government intervention in general. However, if the state refuses to act like other states, who are taking steps to protect their population and environment, then you must at least provide a way for the communities be able to protect themselves and have the funds necessary to oversee these massive landfills. Should we consider that, because it only affects 3 counties in Ohio, those counties be sacrifice zones. As we allow the freedom of construction and expansion of landfills in Ohio, this problem will only get worse as other states continue to limit or outlaw their construction. It will be the largest trash transfer in history from the East coast states to the quote 'flyover' states. The number of Ohio counties experiencing this problem will increase.

On a personal note, I attended the EPA's public comment meeting on the proposed expansion of Win/waste landfill Seneca County. I got up during the Q/A portion and asked a simple question of the 7 or 8 EPA experts there. If Win/Waste gets the expansion and does everything in your proposal to the best of their ability, would you consider the landfill safe for the community? I asked for a show of hands. Guess what? Not one of the EPA representatives would raise their hands. I found that very revealing.

If you are considering not voting favorably for this bill, I ask that you try a little thought experiment. How comfortable would you be in taking a kitchen garbage bag in your own house and filling it with 2-3 gallons of Red Kool-Aid. In your kitchen or living room and letting it set for 30 years and expect it not to leak. By the way, the ratio of thickness to size in your garbage bag is larger than the thickness to size ratio in the landfill liner. Then imagine that rather than being one piece that instead your garbage bag was made of multiple strips of plastic that had been melded together in the outdoors on the ground where dust, dirt and whatever else could interfere in the joining. How comfortable would you be in doing this experiment? What if the liquid were something that could injure your family if it leaked? If you are not comfortable with conducting this experiment in real life... I expect your affirmative vote for this bill.