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Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Substitute Senate Bill 119 – Interested Party Testimony
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Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Landis, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Agriculture 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. The process outlined in ORC 3734.521 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 90-day timeline for a district to separate under this provision and form two or more fully functioning SWMDs 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 and contract negotiations 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.

CCAO also has concerns about the proposed increase in district fees for the disposal of solid waste. Currently, a district has the option to levy a fee between \$1/ton and \$2/ton for in-district and out-of-state waste and between a \$2/ton and \$4/ton fee for out-of-district but in-state waste. Sub. Senate Bill 119 in its current form would change the option to \$4/ton for all scenarios or no fee for all scenarios. When SWMDs complete the solid waste management planning process, fee structures, revenue estimates, and operations costs are all considered. Districts make determinations on the need for fees based on these budget calculations. Once the plan is presented, including the fee structure, the counties, municipalities, and townships served by the SWMD must vote to ratify the plan. Removing the scale of fee options will give our districts fewer choices to levy appropriate fees on the services provided and, with a limited possible fee range, it may be more challenging to achieve ratification of the plan. In addition to the increase in the district solid waste disposal fee, Sub. Senate Bill 119 increases the state solid waste disposal fee from \$4.75/ton to \$7.50/ton. CCAO members are concerned about the totality of these fee increases being passed onto consumers, especially in this inflationary environment.

CCAO appreciates the ongoing conversations with Senator Reineke as the bill sponsor and the opportunity to share concerns and alternatives. We are committed to continuing those discussions. Thank you for your consideration.

