



Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Coley, and Ranking Minority Member Skindell,

My name is John Bayliss and I am a Logan County Commissioner. Bellefontaine is the county seat. I have served as a Logan County Commissioner since 1997.

I am testifying on behalf of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio as an opponent to a proposed amendment in the state budget being brought forth by the solid waste industry that would prevent solid waste districts from designating the facilities to which source separated recyclables could be sent. My understanding is that the amendment would override solid waste district authority to manage recyclables by permitting haulers to determine the recycling facility to which source separated recyclables would be transferred.

As background, I have been involved in solid waste issues at the county level and at the state level for several years. I am currently chair of the Logan County Solid Waste Management District Policy Committee, chair the CCAO Special Committee on the Solid Waste Law, and I have been a member of State Solid Waste Advisory Council which approves the State Solid Waste Management Plan. I have been very invested in the implementation of solid waste management responsibilities which the state has delegated to counties. To a great degree, the dynamic public and private recycling programs that Ohioans have today are attributable to the state solid waste law which encouraged the creation of recycling and waste reduction programs across the state over the past 27 years since the enactment of HB 592.

CCAO is opposed to this amendment being incorporated into the state biennial budget, as (we believe) comprehensive solid waste management is a complex and interconnected policy that is worthy of stand-alone legislation. In that regard, CCAO, Ohio EPA, and private industry, among others, were involved in extensive discussions in 2011 through 2013 in an effort to arrive at a list of agreed-to changes to the solid waste law. That effort, which was led by Ohio EPA, was supposed to result in comprehensive solid waste reform legislation. CCAO would suggest that solid waste reform legislation would be a more appropriate venue for the source separated recycling amendment.

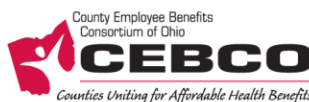
On a personal note, I see fundamental reasons in addition to procedural concerns as to why I am asking you to reconsider supporting this amendment. In addition to losing local control over an increasingly important part of the solid waste stream (source separated recyclables) which solid waste districts are legally responsible for managing, the amendment may adversely affect rural areas in particular because they have low population density and generally lack the economies of scale to attract private service providers. Although Logan County has never used this control, we have directly benefited from it. Explicitly prohibiting designations could make it difficult for smaller communities to craft solid waste and recycling solutions to address local needs.

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to testify today. I will try to answer questions from the committee at this time.



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