



# KEY VOTE ALERT

**TO:** Members of the Ohio House

**FROM:** Stephanie Kromer, Director, Energy & Environmental Policy

**RE:** Floor Vote on House Bills 242

**DATE:** October 8, 2019

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce has long supported Ohio businesses in their efforts to reduce waste and encourage their customers to reuse and recycle items. In partnership with Ohio EPA and the state's solid waste management districts, businesses in the state have made great strides in developing new markets and recycling opportunities for materials. The wrong approach for more progress, however, would be a patchwork of expensive local mandates that ban or tax the auxiliary containers used by retailers and consumers. By prohibiting local governments from enacting these bans or taxes, House Bill 242 will protect retail establishments, manufacturers and consumers and, ultimately, our state's overall economic competitiveness. As a result, **your vote on HB 242 will be reflected in the Ohio Chamber's General Assembly Voting Record.**

An auxiliary container can be a bag, can, cup, food service item, keg, bottle or other container or packaging made of many different materials. These containers are used to consume, transport or protect merchandise, food or beverages from retail food establishments, grocery stores or any other type of retail, manufacturing or distribution establishment.

Local ordinances that ban or impose a tax on these containers result in added costs that directly impact the bottom line for many businesses, both large and small. They also can create compliance problems for a business, as the ordinances often mandate strict measuring, counting, recordkeeping and reporting rules with which a business is forced to comply. These added costs not only impact a business's bottom line, but the extra tax also impacts consumers' purchasing power by making every trip to a store, restaurant or any establishment that utilizes auxiliary containers more expensive.

Adopting statewide uniformity for auxiliary containers is a way to protect against over regulation and support manufacturing jobs. The Ohio Chamber urges you to vote "yes" on HB 242. If you have any questions about this bill or the Ohio Chamber's position, please contact me at 614-629-0930 or [skromer@ohiochamber.com](mailto:skromer@ohiochamber.com).

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