



Ohio Senate
17th District

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Senate Bill 334
Agritourism
Senate Civil Justice Committee
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Thank you Chairman Coley, Vice-Chair Obhof, Ranking Member Skindell and members of the Senate Civil Justice Committee for allowing me to stand with Senator Jones in support of Senate Bill 334. A bill that will encourage the growth of the agritourism industry in Ohio.

Agriculture is Ohio's largest industry and is an important part of both our state's past and its future. The growth of the agritourism industry allows people to reconnect with their rural roots, have a fun farm experience and learn more about the amazing technology that Ohio farmers use to grow the crops and livestock that feed America and the world. People today are especially interested to learn and know more about how and where their food is grown, truly desiring to follow their food from seed to fork. The Ohio agritourism industry brings consumer and farmers together in a meaningful way.

I believe Senate Bill 334 will help farmers become more comfortable in engaging in agritourism activities. This bill's purpose is to clarify many of the regulations that have discouraged farmers from participating in agritourism and will alleviate some of the concerns with liability that farmers have. As an example, many farms that participate in agritourism provide a premade snack for their consumers to enjoy and to connect them to the farm. Under current law farms that participate in this activity would be regulated as a restaurant. I have attached a recent article from Ohio's Country Journal that shares these agritourism concerns.

Senate Bill 334 is a bill that is good for agriculture and good for business and good for Ohio. It is my hope that you will join Senator Jones and me in supporting SB 334. Thank you, Chairman Coley and members of the Senate Civil Justice Committee for allowing me to speak to you today about Senate Bill 334.