

SAMPLE LETTER/EMAIL/SPEAKING POINTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTACT

You may be aware that Ohio House Bill 172 was passed and signed into law on November 8, 2021. This legislation legalizes discharge of consumer grade fireworks 24 hours/day around the times of 14 holidays each year: New Year's Day, Chinese New Year, Cinco de Mayo, Memorial Day weekend, Juneteenth, July 3-5 and Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays preceding the following: Labor Day, Diwali and New Year's Eve. The bill becomes effective on July 1, 2022.

Passage of HB 172 does not affect the professional fireworks shows that we enjoy in our local communities across the state. It does, however, allow for the first time in decades the ability for non-professionals to discharge consumer grade fireworks containing up to 50 mg of explosive material for ground devices (i.e. firecrackers) and aerial devices containing up to 130 mg of pyrotechnic composition (rockets, mortars, multi-tube shells). No special training or licensure is required for non-professionals to discharge consumer fireworks in HB 172.

House Bill 172 does allow for local governments to take action to ban discharge of consumer fireworks entirely or restrict the dates/times of discharge.

I am a resident of (YOUR TOWN/CITY) and also an active member of the Ohio Fireworks Safety Coalition. I am concerned about the negative consequences of consumer discharge of fireworks, including personal injury, noise impacts on pets and veterans with PTSD, fire damage and disturbance of the peace.

Even with a decades-long ban on consumer fireworks discharge in Ohio, many in our community have experienced the annoyance and potential danger of days-weeks' long fireworks use up to midnight and beyond around the 4th. (ADD ANY PERSONAL EXPERIENCES HERE).

Many local governments across the state are pursuing and/or have passed legislation that restricts days/times of consumer fireworks discharge or an outright ban on discharge.

As your constituent, I am contacting you to ask you consider legislation that bans the discharge of consumer fireworks in our locality.

The Ohio Fireworks Safety Coalition offers a toolkit that includes a list of Ohio localities that have already instituted restrictions, fireworks injury facts and talking points, and a summary of HB 172.

According to the [Consumer Product Safety Commission 2020 Fireworks Annual Report](#) released last July, an estimated 15,600 people were treated in emergency departments for firework-related injuries. Half were to innocent bystanders and children under the age of 15 accounted for 24 percent of the estimated firework-related injuries. The National Fire Protection Agency estimates that nearly 20,000 fires are started by fireworks annually.

I look forward to learning your thoughts regarding this issue and local plans that our community has to address the concerns that I have outlined. Please contact me if you have any questions or should you need further assistance.

{ Your Name, Address and Telephone Number }