

April 25, 2017

Hello Chairman Smith,

Last week I was made aware that proposed amendment HC1793 was added to the state budget which is of great concern to me and many others who live in Geauga County.

It is my understanding that, if adopted, this amendment would give additional powers to probate court judges over park districts, including the ability to fine or penalize outside groups that "interfere" with a park district's purpose or mission. I spoke last week with Rep. Sarah LaTourette, Senator John Eklund, and my House Representative, John Patterson, and offered my extreme disapproval of this proposed amendment.

I have read the Supreme Court's decision to which HC1793's sponsor Bill Seitz refers. He claims that this proposed amendment only codifies that decision; it is clear to me and many others that it will do much more than that. This amendment is not only unconstitutional; it is a poor way to introduce legislation and has nothing to do with the State budget. It circumvents the standard process when bills are properly introduced and thoroughly considered by our State legislature before becoming Ohio law.

As the Chairman of the Geauga County Republican Party, I speak on behalf of the majority of voting Republicans who live in Geauga County. We respectfully ask that the Finance Committee remove proposed amendment HC1793 from the sub bill this week before the budget is presented to the full House next week.

In addition, I request that I be allowed to speak in person to the Finance Committee members on Thursday regarding HC1793.

Thank you. I would appreciate a timely response to my request.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy McArthur". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nancy McArthur
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