

Senator Sean J. O'Brien
Ohio Senate
32nd District



Senator Steve Wilson
Ohio Senate
7th District

Sponsor Testimony: Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 15
House State and Local Government Committee
January 24th, 2018

Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes, and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for allowing us to present sponsor testimony today on SCR 15, legislation that would designate 2018 as “Ohio’s Year of the Trails”.

This concurrent resolution would encourage all Ohioans to take advantage of their local trail networks, facilitate the connecting of trail segments throughout Ohio, and pay tribute to everyone who works to maintain and enlarge these public amenities.

Ohio is home to more than 4,000 miles of trails which are used for a variety of activities including walking, hiking, biking, horseback riding, rolling, and paddling. These pathways not only provide significant economic and environmental benefits, but are also an important feature in helping to improve quality of life, encouraging community connections, and promoting a healthy lifestyle for all Ohioans. Through bringing increased awareness to the extensive trails network in our state, we can recognize the people who have helped make it a reality and, hopefully, facilitate its continued improvement for years to come.

Additionally, this would give the Ohio Legislative Trails Caucus, of which some of you are members, a designated timeframe in which to achieve some of the goals we have laid out as a caucus. These goals include the hosting of a state legislator trail event, the creation of a comprehensive online Ohio trail map, updating the current Ohio state trail plan, building the trail development capacity of our state agency partners, and conducting a statewide trails economic impact study. Passage of SCR 15 would give us a firm date by which to achieve those goals, hopefully facilitating their successful completion by the end of 2018.

Finally, SCR 15 is an opportunity for us all to work in a bipartisan manner on an issue where people on both sides of the aisle can find common ground. No matter the activity, most Ohioans have enjoyed our state’s wonderful trails system at some point in their life. Truly, making sure those trails are developed and preserved for years to come is something we can all agree is in our best interest.

Chair Anielski and members of the House State and Local Government Committee thank you again for allowing us to present sponsor testimony today on SCR 15. We urge your favorable consideration of it, and would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.