



Representative Don Manning
59th Ohio House District

HB 288 Sponsor Testimony

Chairman Hambley, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Brown, and members of the House Civil Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 288, which will prohibit the use of eminent domain to appropriate land for a recreational trail.

All too often, we see property owners taken advantage of through the use of eminent domain. While eminent domain can be used to obtain land for projects that benefit the health and safety of Ohioans, a recreational trail does not constitute the taking of someone's property.

Specifically in my district, farmers, property owners, and business owners are at risk of losing property for the creation of a bike trail. Several farm owners are facing the very real possibility that acres of their land are about to be cut off from the rest of their property. A father also contacted me to express the very real concern that the proposed trail will run fifteen feet from his young daughter's bedroom window. Members of a sportsmen's club in my district have also expressed their concerns. The proposed trail will require them to re-locate their shooting range, as the trail will cut through the club property. They will also have to re-evaluate several of their other operations if the trail is created.

The concerns brought to me by my constituents are concerns that would exist in any community facing this situation, and I have been made aware that the residents of Stark County are facing a similar situation with their park system. My legislation will ensure that the property rights of individuals are not infringed for the creation of something as trivial as a bike trail.

I would like to thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on this legislation and welcome any questions that you may have.

Committees:

Health: Vice Chair
Agriculture and Rural Development
Criminal Justice

www.ohiohouse.gov
77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Contact Information:

Office: 614-466-6107
FAX: 614-719-3959
Email: rep59@ohiohouse.gov