



State Representative David Leland

Sponsor Testimony – House Bill 562

Chairman Landis, Vice Chair Hagan, Ranking Member O'Brien, H.B. 562 is legislation that seeks to protect Ohio's parks and nature preserves from the impacts of fracking. This bill will ensure adequate protections for Ohio's state and local parks by refusing to permit new well proposals on these lands.

As you know the Oil and Gas Commission has the authority under current law to allow Fracking in a state park, nature preserve, or wildlife district in or around your community. H.B. 562 would keep that from happening. This legislation will, in effect, preemptively prevent fracking from fragmenting Ohio's diverse ecosystem that exists in our parks and nature preserves, protect our wetlands and avoid a potentially costly cleanup at the expense of Ohio's communities.

It is my hope that we can all share a vision for our state that includes meeting our energy needs without ever having to sacrifice our beautiful state and local parks, forests, nature preserves, and wildlife areas. Conserving Ohio's public lands ensures they will be around for future generations to utilize and enjoy.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.