

To: Rep. Ryan Smith

April 25, 2017

Re: HB49 Amendment HC1793

Proposed change to Ohio Revised Code 1545 concerning county parks

Dear Mr. Smith,

I am writing to urge your committee to remove the proposed change to the Ohio Revised Code 1545 concerning County Parks.

I live in Cuyahoga County. I pursue several recreational activities in nearby counties as well as Cuyahoga. I love the park systems of NE Ohio and believe I should be allowed to attend and contribute public comment at those meetings without fear of retribution.

his amendment should be removed from the Budget Bill for several reasons:

It has nothing to do with the State Budget.

The amendment would be an unnecessary expansion of the limited power given to a probate judge by the legislators who originally drafted this law.

The amendment is the antithesis of a democracy. It hinders free speech. It would not be possible to make a public comment at a park board meeting that was at odds with the judge without risk of a fine. This makes no sense whatsoever.

It is also my opinion that this amendment has been proposed to further the personal agenda of a single judge and is at odds with the correct way to legislate.

I might add that I am a former President of the Northeast Ohio American Heart Association and the former Chairman of the Department of Medicine at Parma Community Hospital in Cleveland. I have been on, and run, enough committees to appreciate the value not only of those who agree with proposed policy, but those who expand the committee's understanding of the issues by expressing contrary views.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nelson Mostow

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