

Mr. Stepp:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Please add my testimony against SUB HB 49/Park Board Amendment in this Bill.

Subject Matter (proposed change to Ohio Revised Code 1545 concerning County Parks.

Please remove the section about the park board amendment that gives Probate Judges the power to fine citizens.

*The amendment should be removed from the Budget Bill because it has nothing to do with the State budget;

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

* The amendment would create a chilling effect on public participation and would hinder free speech, contrary to the First Amendment;

* The amendment would give sole discretion in declaring who is interfering with a county park district to a probate judge, who would also decide the fine and punishment;

* It is undemocratic to put such powers in the hands of a single individual, and would compromise separation of powers;

* Amendment would create an unfortunate opportunity for exploitation of the expanded authority by a Probate Judge for political or personal reasons.

Thank You,

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