

May 14, 2019

The Ohio Legislature c/o Director Mary Metz Ohio Department of Natural Resources 2045 Morse Road Columbus, OH 43229-6693

Re: LMC Support for ODNR Division of Natural Area and Preserves (DNAP) and Ohio Scenic Rivers

Dear Legislator,

Currently there is a proposal from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to re-establish the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP) with the Scenic Rivers Program and to provide additional funding for this division in the 2020-2021 biennium budget

The current budget bill (H.B. 166) would move the Scenic Rivers Program back to DNAP and increase DNAP's budget

The proposed increase in funding from the Ohio General Revenue Fund would allow an increase in many areas of management, education and general maintenance of Ohio's natural and unique ecosystems.

Returning the Scenic Rivers Program to the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP) will also require that the existing waterways safety funds used to fund the Scenic Rivers Program be moved to DNAP in addition to the GRF funding.

Little Miami Conservancy and it 400 members are pleased to support this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Eric B. Partee
Executive Director

Little Miami Conservancy