



Date: May 24, 2021

RE: HB 175, concerning regulation of “Ephemeral Features”

Position: Neutral, as amended to clarify that “Ephemeral Features” do not include wetlands.

Chairman Koehler and members of the Committee,

Thank you once again for the opportunity to weigh-in on HB 175 concerning the regulation of “ephemeral features.” On behalf of Ducks Unlimited’s over 18,000 members in Ohio, I wish to thank the bill author for his willingness to amend this legislation to clarify that “Ephemeral Features” do not include wetlands as defined in section 6111.02 of the Revised Code. The amendment clarifies both the scope and intent of the legislation and Ducks Unlimited welcomes this improvement to the bill. If adopted by the committee, DU will take a neutral stance on the legislation moving forward.

As I shared with the Committee during last week’s hearing, maintaining adequate wetland protection and mitigation is essential for ensuring that our watersheds maintain their ecological integrity and continue to support abundant wildlife populations. We are grateful for the bill author’s recognition of wetland resource importance for waterfowl hunters and all Ohioans and for the efforts he has taken to clarify the scope of HB 175. DU looks forward to continuing our work throughout Ohio delivering wetland conservation projects that benefit wildlife, water quality, and our strong outdoor recreation economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a statement today and for your support for wetlands conservation.

Reece Nickol  
Ohio State Policy Chair  
Ducks Unlimited