

MUD RUN CONSERVANCY
P.O. Box 204
Enon, OH 45323

May 13, 2021

Dear Chariman Koehler, Vice Chairman Creech, Ranking Member Brent and members of the Agriculture and Conservation Committee,

The members of Mud Run Conservancy, a non-profit 501(c)(3), in Clark County, Ohio hope you will join them in opposing Ohio House Bill 175, to “deregulate certain ephemeral water features.

We are concerned about preserving and protecting not only Mud Run but all Ohio waterways. As you know, the changes to this bill will remove some ephemeral waters from Ohio EPA pollution control laws. There are an estimated 36,000 miles of ephemeral streams in Ohio and, while these waterways are temporary, deregulation could cause damage having long lasting negative effects.

The deregulation of ephemeral streams from the Ohio EPA permitting process means the intermittent waterways would no longer be considered “waters of the state”. There would be a loss of state revenue from the collection of permit fees and the removal of the Ohio EPA’s protection. This means pollutants and sewage could be discharged into the ephemeral stream and relieving the producer of the contaminant from responsibility and legal ramifications.

The passage of H.B. 175 will make it easier for land developers, builders, industrial mineral companies, pipeline installers and farmers to contaminate and damage one of Ohio’s precious resources - our water.

Please help to protect our environment and vote “No” on H.B. 175.

Sincerely,
Michael Verbillion
President
Mud Run Conservancy