



**House Finance Committee
Interested Party Testimony, House Bill 110 (Oelslager)
Nathan Johnson, Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund
April 14, 2021**

Chairman Oelslager, Ranking Member Crawley, and Members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony to this Committee regarding House Bill 110, the main operating budget for FY2022-2023.

My name is Nathan Johnson, Public Lands Director for the Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund (OECAF). The Mission of the OECAF is to secure healthy air, land, and water for all who call Ohio home.

The OECAF writes to express our support for a brownfields funding amendment that has been submitted for your consideration. This amendment would dedicate 75% of the excess liquor profits returned to the state from JobsOhio as the source of funding for CORF (the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund), with the remaining 25% going to the General Revenue Fund.

Brownfields redevelopment is a smart investment and a jobs and economic generator for communities across Ohio. "Brownfields," environmentally contaminated former industrial and commercial sites, are present in all 88 counties in the state. Providing communities with the resources to clean these sites up and repurpose them enhances property values, drives local investment, and supports local jobs growth.

Brownfield reclamation and redevelopment has suffered in Ohio since the sunset of the CORF in 2013. Reestablishing CORF now will help clean the environment and spur local economic growth at a time when local communities have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In short, brownfields funding is an important and much-needed investment in Ohio's local communities, the local environment, and economic development.

Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for considering the OECAF's support for **including brownfields funding in the state's operating budget.**