



**Proponent Testimony of Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund
Senate Bill 84 (Williams – Rulli)
Presented to the Ohio Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
March 23, 2021**

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Fedor, and Members of the Ohio Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony to this Committee regarding Senate Bill 84, legislation related to the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund (CORF).

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.

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.

SB 84 directs the excess liquor profits returned to the state from JobsOhio to fund CORF. This legislation does not impact JobsOhio’s funding, because the dollar amount contemplated by SB 84 is in excess of the formula established under JobsOhio’s lease.

In short, SB 84 is an important and much-needed investment in Ohio’s local communities, the local environment, and economic development.

In conclusion, Chairman and Members of the Committee, thank you for considering the OECAF’s perspective and support for SB 84.