

Chairman Dolan, Ranking Member Sykes, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I'm writing in opposition to the state public lands leasing amendment found in Sub. HB 110 (Sections 155.30 through 155.36) as an Ohioan who is concerned about public health and enjoyment of our state lands.

The state lands leasing amendment threatens public health, outdoor recreation, and a strong environment by aggressively promoting oil and gas development in Ohio's state public lands. It weakens public oversight by eliminating leasing commission consultation from state agency leasing decisions.

The state lands leasing amendment breaks promises to Ohio taxpayers by plowing all leasing revenues back into facilitating more oil and gas industry development instead of reinvesting those revenues into our state parks, forests, and wildlife areas.

My wife and I and our neighbors expect and deserve clean air and safe experiences in our state parks and state public lands.

I urge rejection of the state lands leasing amendment found in Sub. HB 110.

Rick Hamilton