

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

I am writing to you today regarding the amendment to bill HB 110 that would promote oil and gas development on public lands. I strongly urge you to reject this amendment. Today, more than ever, people are using and enjoying our public lands. They were a refuge for many folks during the worst of the pandemic and continue to provide recreation and delight.

The opening of public lands to fracking would put in jeopardy public health and outdoor recreation at the expense of promoting oil and gas development. The revenue from these leases would not go back into the public lands but be used to further develop oil and gas industries. This is no win situation for our public lands and would weaken and destroy them. Ohioans deserve to have safe natural places- these are public lands and should be maintained for the best use by the public not to promote private sector businesses.

Please support the continuation of our beautiful state parks and public lands for all citizens of Ohio. Please vote against this amendment.

Thank you for your time today.
Susan Upton