

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

As an Ohioan who is concerned about public health and enjoyment on our state lands, I write in opposition to the state public lands leasing amendment found in Sub. HB 110 (Sections 155.30 through 155.36).

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. It also 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.

As an Ohioan who expects and deserves 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.