

House Agriculture

Written Proponent Testimony: House Bill 364 Regards non-commercial seed sharing; noxious weed removal

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony as a proponent of HB 364, which will permit conservation organizations and private individuals to distribute seeds non-commercially with associates, members, and friends.

The Nature Conservancy is a global organization with chapters in all 50 states and projects in over 70 countries. We are a non-partisan, science-based organization that seeks to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. We work collaboratively with other conservation organizations, farmers, sportsmen groups, governments, local communities, and park districts to develop pragmatic solutions to conservation challenges, including land conservation, water quality, and climate change. More than 65,000 Ohioans are Nature Conservancy supporters, and we own and manage over 20,000 acres of nature preserves throughout the state.

The Nature Conservancy supports the passage of HB 364 in order to better protect the resources needed to sustain the Monarch butterfly population in Ohio, and to promote the planting and propagation of native plants and native plant habitats to ensure Ohio's natural spaces thrive. As a conservation organization, The Nature Conservancy seeks to defend the richness of biodiversity and the lands and waters upon which life depends across the globe. Increasing opportunities for nonprofit, governmental, and grassroots community organizations to non-commercially share healthy seeds of native Ohio species can increase these efforts. This bill will help to ensure that the plants, animals, and insects that call Ohio home remain healthy and abundant for generations to come.

The Nature Conservancy respectfully urges you to pass HB 364 to promote the health of habitats necessary for the Monarch butterfly and to protect Ohio's rich diversity of plant and animal life. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. Please reach out if you have any questions.

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