

House Agriculture

Written Proponent Testimony: House Bill 568 - Creates the Healthy Soils Task Force

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony as a proponent of HB 568, which will create the Healthy Soils Task Force.

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 improving agricultural practices for the benefit of farmers and the land itself. 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 would like to thank Representatives Brent and Dean for sponsoring this bill, which will help protect the resources needed to sustain Ohio's place as a top agriculture producing state, including clean water resources, carbon-rich soil, and pollinator and wildlife habitats. The Nature Conservancy works to promote regenerative agriculture by working with farmers through programs like Farmer Advocates for Conservation and through partnerships like the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Council, the Ohio Agricultural Conservation Initiative (OACI), The Ohio State University Extension, and more.

The Nature Conservancy seeks to preserve the lands and waters upon which life depends and nature's rich variety. The task force created by the bill can help do this by identifying ways to improve Ohio's soil to the benefit of farmers and the land itself. This work will be another step in helping to enhance Ohio's water quality, resilience to drought and pests, and protection of fragile natural areas and food systems.

The Nature Conservancy respectfully urges you to pass HB 568 to promote the richness and health of Ohio's soil and ensure a bountiful agricultural future for our state. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Mary Turocy
Director of Policy & Government Relations
The Nature Conservancy