



**SCIENCE
EDUCATION
COUNCIL OF
OHIO**

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To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the Science Education Council of Ohio, I am writing to express our support of the proposed budget line items that would allocate money for the next two years for the expansion of Ohio's Project WILD program. Project WILD is a supplementary curriculum that science educators can use with their students to increase awareness, appreciation, and understanding of wildlife and natural resources.

The Science Education Council of Ohio (SECO) is the Ohio affiliate of the National Science Teaching Association. SECO is a collaborative community that believes everyone deserves the benefit of a strong science education in order to engage with an ever-changing world. We offer support to over 1000 science educators across the state of Ohio and beyond through our annual conference, monthly webinars, virtual professional development, grade band meetups, and field trips. We collaborate regularly with the Ohio Division of Natural Resources on the various opportunities we provided to Ohio's science educators.

Research by RAND shows that teachers spend 7-12 hours per week looking for instructional resources to supplement their instruction. Many of these resources cost money that is paid for by districts or teachers' personal funds. More importantly, most of those resources are unvetted and oftentimes are found to be weakly aligned to state standards when reviewed.

The resources found on Ohio's Project Wild have been created by professionals in the field of science education and vetted by professionals in the field of science education. This is why the Science Education Council of Ohio supports and encourages the Ohio Legislature to approve the budget line item that would provide funding for Ohio's Project Wild program over the next two years.

Sincerely,

Leslie Silbernagel

**Leslie Silbernagel
Executive Director, SECO**