



Bill Reineke
State Senator
26th Senate District

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RE: Sponsor Testimony – SB 156

Chair Schaffer, Vice-Chair Landis, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee; thank you for allowing my joint-sponsor and I to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 156.

The idea for this legislation came from a constituent in Sandusky County. Given the current concerns regarding the “Wild, Scenic or Recreational River Act” which is the current statute, all proposed river designations are on hold until these items are resolved.

This legislation would remove the creation of a “Wild, Scenic or Recreational River Area” which is described as a 1,000-foot corridor along a designated river, due to concerns from river front property owners regarding the loss of private property rights.

The bill would also define “Scenic River Lands”, clarify posting requirements for public notices of the Director’s “Intent to Designate”, and extend the public comment period to 60 days. It would clarify that designation of a watercourse does not provide any governmental entity the ability to restrict the use of private property, clarify the Director’s approval authority over publicly funded projects with the 1,000-foot corridor and retain advisory councils for each designated river and expand membership eligibility.

The substitute bill brought forth today is twofold: it corrects the definition of a scenic river and wild river and removes the authorization to charge a fee that was unintentionally included in the initial bill draft.

Chair Schaffer, members of the committee, thank you once again for allowing us to present sponsor testimony, we would be happy to take any questions at this time.