



OhioScenicRivers@gmail.com  
EIN 84-3258176

Proponent Statement – Ohio Scenic Rivers Association  
Senate Bill 156  
Presented to the Ohio Senate Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee  
November 14, 2023

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Landis, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and Members of the Ohio Senate Agriculture and Conservation Committee, the Ohio Scenic Rivers Association supports Senate Bill 156, addressing changes to the Ohio Revised Code affecting the Scenic Rivers Program at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

The Ohio Scenic Rivers Association (OSRA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to protection and improvement of Ohio's Scenic Rivers. We were formed in 2018 and recognize 55 years of Ohio's Scenic River law. Our Board members are Scenic River advocates from across Ohio.

OSRA supports passage of SB 156. We have reviewed the bill introduced by Senators Reineke and Hackett, both of whom have Scenic Rivers in their districts. We appreciate the Sub. S.B. 156 bill analysis provided by the Legislative Services Commission. The bill appropriately transfers the authority to administer the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Program from the Division of Parks and Watercraft to the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP). We believe changes provided in Sub. S.B. 156 directly address concerns about maintaining private property rights for landowners along a Scenic River. The Association recognizes the rights of these private property owners and believe that the bill properly "clarifies that a watercourse designation does not affect private property rights or authorize any governmental agency or political subdivision to restrict the use of private land adjacent to a designated river" (LSC analysis). We believe the bill appropriately addresses other issues such as definitions of terms used in this section of the Ohio Revised Code.

We thank sponsors Reineke and Hackett and this committee for their efforts and urge that this bill be forwarded to the full Senate for passage and the eventual signature of Governor DeWine.

If there are any questions, please contact OSRA president Tom Butch at 330-301-0536, [butchy5@gmail.com](mailto:butchy5@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony Sasson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anthony Sasson  
Ohio Scenic Rivers Association