



visitchillicotheohio.com

November 13, 2023

Dear Senator Schaffer, Vice-Chair Landis, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and members of the Senate Agriculture and Nation Resources Committee,

I am writing to support the passage of Senate Bill 156 that will provide several changes to the Ohio Scenic River Law that will enhance the program's ability to serve the citizens of Ohio. The designation would bring economic benefits in the form of tourism to Ross County, as well as emphasis on Clean Ohio grant applications, such as bank collapse, erosion control, and failing dams.

The proposed changes eliminate the creation of the 1,000-foot wild, scenic, or recreational area and just provide for the designation of the watercourse. This should provide clarity to landowners that their land and private property rights will not be impacted by the designation of a wild, scenic, or recreational river. Had this verbiage been in Senate Bill 156 in the beginning, I feel that the citizens of Ross County would have been supportive all along.

The Ross-Chillicothe Convention & Visitor's Bureau is excited that efforts continue to focus on improving and enhancing the Ohio Scenic River Program. This designation will make information about the site and its recreational attributes more available to the recreating public, increase interest in the site, and result in increased visitation.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me by email at melody@visitchillicotheohio.com or by contacting the office.

Sincerely,

Melody Young
Executive Director

230 N. Plaza Blvd. • Chillicothe, Ohio 45601
800-413-4118 • 740-702-7677 (ROSS)
