

192 Richards Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43214
13 November 2023

State Senator Tim Schaffer
20th Ohio Senate District
Chair, Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

Dear Senator Schaffer:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 156, which proposes changes to a program that has benefited Ohioans for over 55 years, namely the Scenic Rivers Program. It protects many of our state's highest quality natural watercourses, ensuring clean water and natural stream corridors, greatly benefitting both wildlife and people.

The proposed changes would put management of the Program back where it originated, and best fits—ODNR's Division of Natural Areas and Preserves.

Moreover, the bill modifies confusing language regarding the designation of wild, scenic and recreational rivers, letting landowners know that private property rights are not impacted by their designation as such. I feel that this clarity will foster public support for the designation of more rivers, which would greatly enhance the lives of our citizens as they would have greater access to natural stream corridors to fish, swim, paddle or simply enjoy nature in.

I encourage you and the other members of your committee to give this proposal full and favorable consideration.

Thank you for your attention and efforts in this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert Klips
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