

Ohio Senate Agricultural & Natural Resource Committee:

Greetings,

My name is Joseph Williams. I am a council member in Malta, OH located in Morgan County. As you are aware, Jesse Owens State Park is a big part of our county.

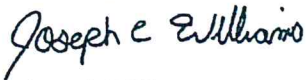
Our community is aware of the request that ODNR has made in House Bill 33 for FY2024-2025 to hire additional staff necessary to maintain and operate improvements including the construction of 10 cabins, 50 full-service campsites, a visitor center, and a retail shop. There is also funding to hiring additional law enforcement and a national guard for the park. These improvements provide a better recreational experience and bring more tourists to our rural towns.

As I understand, the bill is at risk of not being fully funded without the support of your committee. In other words, without your support our community is at risk of losing investments that are greatly needed in rural Appalachian Ohio.

These investments would not only showcase Ohio's largest State Park, providing enjoyment for all Ohioans and out-of-state tourists, but would give a chance for forgotten communities to flourish. Ohio's largest State Park has the potential to help our local economies if our leaders fully support Jesse Owens State Park and our community by supporting full funding of the bill.

Investing in Jesse Owens State Park is an investment in rural Appalachian Ohio and benefits all Ohioan's.

Kind regards,



Joseph Williams

Council Member

Malta, OH