



May 15, 2023

The Honorable Tim Schaffer
Chair
Ohio Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: HOUSE BILL 33

Dear Senator Schaffer:

As you are aware, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has committed funding for capital improvements at Jesse Owens State Park in Morgan County. The project, to begin later this year, includes construction of 10 cabins, 50 full-service campsites, visitor center and retail store.

ODNR requested an increase in funding in House Bill 33 in FY2024-2025 from the state budget to cover additional park expenses and hire additional staff to maintain and operate these improvements, which includes additional law enforcement and a naturalist for the park. The bill is at risk for not being fully funded, which would directly impact its scale and staffing.

Over 5,000 visitors come to the park annually with millions of dollars of direct and indirect spending in Morgan and surrounding counties. Our business is benefitting from this state park and these improvements would continue to support our local economy and help our communities continue to flourish.

Please support House Bill 33 so ODNR can continue with this economically vital project in the heart of Appalachia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer L. Ponchak".

Jennifer L. Ponchak
Vice President

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