

May 3, 2023

Dear Ohio Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing to show my support for the funding ODNR has requested in House Bill 33. This additional funding will enable them to make improvements on our local Jesse Owens State Park. This park is a Morgan County staple with not only local citizens, but also traveling visitors to and through our great county. These additional funds will allow them to upgrade the park and make it a place people will want to specifically visit, not just drive through on the way elsewhere.

My family has utilized this park for years. We often visit, and many times take our own visitors, to see the Big Muskie bucket and enjoy the wonderful view of our beautiful county. There are some spots for a picnic lunch, which we enjoy throughout the summer months. It would be a great addition to have more to accommodate the visitors to the park. The idea of a naturalist on site would add to the enjoyment and education of the visitors. Being an elementary teacher in our county, I could see our students benefiting from field trips to the park and working with the Naturalist. These additions would enable them to learn about their own county instead of traveling out of county or state. Many of our students come from poverty-stricken homes and don't get a vacation or getaway outside of our county. These additions would enable them to experience a trip right in their own "back yard" with little expense to their parents. Our transit system could even take them there for those with no transportation!

We will be using this park many times as the weather warms and I look forward to the additions that can be made with your support of House Bill 33. Please join me in supporting our county and the great things we have to offer our visitors!

Sincerely,

Jill R. Schramm

Morgan South Elementary

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