



ZANESVILLE - MUSKINGUM COUNTY

PORT AUTHORITY

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May 2, 2023

Ohio Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee
The Ohio Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Executive Director of the Zanesville Muskingum County Port Authority, I wholeheartedly offer my support for the funding of House Bill 33 in FY2024-2025 from the state budget. These funds are being requested to cover additional expenses at Jesse Owens State Park including the hiring of additional staff for maintenance and operations, additional law enforcement and a naturalist for the park.

ODNR has committed funding for capital improvements at Jesse Owens State Park in Morgan County. The project includes construction of ten (10) cabins, fifty (50) full-service campsites, a visitor center and a retail shop to begin in late 2023.

The economic impact of Jesse Owens State Park is felt not only in Morgan County, but in neighboring counties like Muskingum as well. Over 5,000 outdoor enthusiasts visit annually, with millions of dollars of direct and indirect spending in Morgan and surrounding counties. Local businesses benefit from Jesse Owens State Park and these improvements would continue to support the Southeastern Ohio economy and allow the Morgan County community to flourish.

I commend the efforts to fund and complete this project and endorse it with my full support. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding my commitment to this endeavor.

Best regards,

Matt Abbott
Executive Director