



CAMBRIDGE • GUERNSEY COUNTY  
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

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May 5, 2023

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

To Whom It May Concern:

The Cambridge-Guernsey County Community Improvement Corporation is pleased to offer support for the effort to secure funding through House Bill 33 in FY2024-2025. The recreation and tourist options provided by Jesse Owens State Park, along with The Wilds, is critical to the attraction of visitors to our area. The hope is always that increased visitation to Appalachia will highlight not only the beauty, but also the potential for permanently locating here. People traveling to the Jesse Owens Park will provide a spike to local communities through food, gas, and retail purchases.

The rugged terrain in Appalachia often makes location of large-scale industry in the hills and valleys challenging. However, because of the beauty and recreational opportunities, tourism flourishes and is a major segment of the Appalachian economy. For this reason, it is imperative we support and fund capital improvements in the tourism arena such as those proposed for the Jesse Owens State Park. Finally, the staff necessary to maintain and police the site are a critical aspect of this request to provide a safe and sustainable park environment.

We stand strongly in support of this effort to finish a very important and worthwhile project which will provide a significant financial benefit to Morgan and surrounding Counties.

Respectfully,

  
Norm Blanchard  
Economic Development Director

NB/ng