



Morgan County Sheriff's Office

Douglas J. McGrath Sheriff

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May 3, 2023

Dear Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 33 and the proposed increase in funding for Jesse Owens State Park in Morgan County. As the Sheriff of Morgan County, I believe that the addition of law enforcement personnel to the park would be an excellent investment in the safety and security of our community.

The park attracts a large number of visitors each year, and while the vast majority of them are law-abiding and respectful, there are always a few who cause problems. On May 15, 2022, there was a hatchet attack at Jesse Owens State Park that left several visitors injured. While law enforcement responded quickly and were able to apprehend the suspect, the incident serves as a reminder of the importance of maintaining a visible and active law enforcement presence in the park.

The addition of more law enforcement personnel would help to deter criminal activity and ensure that the park remains a safe and enjoyable place for all visitors. Furthermore, the natural beauty of Jesse Owens State Park also draws many people to the area for recreational activities such as hiking, fishing, and camping. Having more law enforcement in the park would not only protect visitors but also help to reduce the risk of damage to the park's natural resources.

I strongly urge you to support House Bill 33 and provide the necessary funding for additional law enforcement personnel to be assigned to Jesse Owens State Park. Your investment in the park's safety and security will benefit both visitors and residents alike, and will help to ensure that Jesse Owens State Park remains a valuable asset to our community.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and your commitment to supporting the safety and well-being of our community. Thank you for your continued efforts to enhance our local parks and natural resources.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Douglas J. McGrath".

Douglas J. McGrath
Morgan County Sheriff