



# Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Ohio House of Representatives  
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
House Bill 65  
April 2, 2025

Chairman Creech, Vice-Chair Newman, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing us to provide written testimony to your committee.

On behalf of the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and all of our local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, we appreciate you taking the time to consider HB 65.

Our Soil and Water Districts have a long history of supporting farmers in our community and since the 1980's they have been participating in urban work, and stormwater management as it relates to this bill. Since 2018, our districts and other agencies have participated in an unofficial Stormwater Awareness Week highlighting best management practices for stormwater management. By officially designating Stormwater Awareness week, we hope to bring greater recognition to our programs which protect Ohio streams and rivers.

During this week, we promote:

1. Pick up trash in your neighborhood or a local park. It can be a family game to see who can fill up a bag first.
2. Check the weather report before applying fertilizer to your lawn or any oil or chemicals to driveways and sidewalks. This will protect the environment and your pocketbook.
3. Make sure lawns have 3-4 inches of topsoil under the grass. This will reduce runoff, as well as make lawns easier to maintain.
4. Plant native plants that have deep roots, which will help break up clay soil and increase the amount of water remaining on a property while benefiting birds, butterflies and bees.
5. Plant a tree in your yard or install a rain garden. Trees can soak up 900 gallons of rain a year and a well-designed rain garden almost entirely reduce stormwater from a property.
6. Properly dispose yard waste and fall leaves by composting or participating in yard waste pick up or drop off programs. Do not dispose of yard waste into ditches or ravines.
7. Remember to keep sidewalks and roadways free of grass clippings and fertilizer. Soak up or other chemicals that spill on hard surfaces before it rains.

Thank you for all you do to support the work of soil and water districts. And please remember one of our favorites, "Don't be Cousin Eddie, remember, only rain down the drain."

We would be happy to answer any questions at this time.