



## Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District

PO Box 8006, 1610 State Route 521, Delaware, OH 43015  
Phone: (740)368-1921 · Website: <https://soilandwater.co.delaware.oh.us>

---

April 1, 2025

Dear Chairman Creech,

Vice-Chair Newman, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the committee.

The Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District strongly supports HB 65 "Agriculture Appreciation Act".

Water Quality and Soil Health are the foundation that Soil and Water Conservation Districts are built across the State of Ohio. The understanding, awareness and appreciation of Ohio's soil and water resources is of the utmost importance in every endeavor. While many may think soil health and stormwater awareness is a uniquely rural concern, this is not the case. Stewardship of our soil and water resources must be the concern of every resident, in every corner of the State. The passage of HB 65 will provide yet another platform for SWCDs to engage residents and landowners in our urban, suburban, and rural landscapes in understanding their relationship to soil and water quality through wise land management decision making.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize Mr. Dave Brandt for his work and unwavering enthusiasm for educating all of us on the topic of building soil health. Mr. Brandt is most deserved of this recognition and truly a pioneer.

Respectfully,

Scott Stephens  
District Administrator