



Ashtabula County Metroparks
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October 6, 2025

House Development Committee Members

77 South High Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Testimony on HB 379

October 8, 2025

Thank you, Chairman Hoops, Vice Chair Lorenz and Ranking Member Brownlee, for the opportunity to provide testimony for HB 379.

We are testifying to you today requesting the support and approval to the Ohio Rail Development to gift the current leased land to Ashtabula County Metroparks that stretches from the Trumbull County line through Ashtabula County. Ashtabula Metroparks has leased and improved the old rail bed from the Ohio Rail Development and converted it to a twenty-seven mile "linear park" over the last 20 + years. This trail continues to attract walkers, runners, bike riders, snow shoeing, snowmobiling, birders, and nature walkers.

We continue to prove that the Ashtabula County Metroparks have been good stewards of the land by keeping it maintained and usable for patrons during all four seasons. We have continually made improvements over the last 20+ years by installing parking lots, overlooks, shelters, bike fix-it stations, benches, along with many other assets. This trail continues to be heavily used not only by our Ashtabula County residents but also brings tourism to our county.

We request the support and approval to convey the property to the Ashtabula County Metroparks and Trumbull County Metropolitan Park District.

Sincerely,

Brett Bellas

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