

Dear Representative Adam Holmes, Chair of the Ohio House Energy Committee:

I am writing about House Bill 15, which deals with energy in our state. As someone who loves Ohio's parks and natural areas, I'm concerned about protecting these special places for our families now and for future generations.

Our Parks Are Not for Drilling

When my family visits state parks on weekends, we go there to enjoy nature, not to see or hear drilling equipment. I was shocked to learn that 98% of the 600 public comments submitted to the Oil and Gas Land Management Commission opposed fracking under Ohio's public lands. One person wrote what many of us feel: "No fracking should be done on public lands. Those lands were set aside by Ohioans for the enjoyment of the public, not to make money for companies, especially those out of state."

A Better Way Forward

We don't need to sacrifice our parks to meet our energy needs. There is currently \$53.7 million waiting to be invested in solar energy in Ohio. This money could create clean energy without damaging our natural spaces.

When I look at what fracking does, I worry about:

- The toxic waste it produces
- Methane leaking into our air
- Using up our water during drought periods
- Destroying the natural areas we all love

What Regular Ohioans Want

As a parent, grandparent, resident, and voter in Ohio, I want energy solutions that don't force us to choose between keeping the lights on and protecting our parks. Non-polluting energy options like solar, wind, and geothermal can provide power without harming the places where our children and grandkids can play without noise, air and water pollution and where we can make memories.

I've heard that two bills with strong public support (HB197 and HB79) already passed with bipartisan backing. These bills supported renewable energy and efficiency. Doesn't it make sense to include these popular ideas in HB15?

My wife and I have chosen to come to Ohio to work, have a family, and live in Ohio partly because of our beautiful public lands. These parks aren't just nice to have; they are essential to the quality of life for all those who have chosen to have a family, live, and work in Ohio.

In Conclusion:

I urge you to ensure that HB15 protects our treasured Ohio parks and public lands. Please include provisions that prohibit fracking on these lands, redirect the \$53.7 million waiting to be invested toward solar and renewable projects, and incorporate the successful elements of HB197 and HB79 that received bipartisan support. As Ohioans, we shouldn't have to choose between meeting our energy needs and protecting the outdoor spaces. By supporting non-polluting energy alternatives and placing firm protections on our public lands, HB15 can truly serve the best interests of all Ohio residents-today and for generations to come.

I ask you to listen to the overwhelming voice of your constituents who have made it clear: our parks are not for drilling; they are for enjoying nature and living a healthy life.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in writing.

Sincerely,
Harry Lader