



**Ohio Environmental Council**  
[Action Fund]

**April 8, 2025**

**Proponent Testimony for House Bill 16**  
**Ohio House General Government Committee**

Chairwoman Ray, Vice Chair Fischer, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the House General Government Committee,

Our mission at the OEC Action Fund includes strengthening democracy to ensure that the voices most affected by environmental issues are represented in government. Free speech and expression form the foundation of a thriving, representative government and a healthy democracy.

Freedom of expression is a cornerstone of our democracy. When individuals can openly and visibly express their views, it fosters dialogue and strengthens our communities. Political expression in public spaces should be celebrated, not suppressed.

House Bill 16 affirms free expression in our democracy by protecting individuals' ability to publicly support candidates and issues they believe in. This bill ensures that Ohio stands on the side of openness, engagement, and democratic expression.

On behalf of the Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund, I respectfully urge your support for House Bill 16. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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