

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: . March 4, 2025

Name: . Tom Butch

Are you representing: Yourself ☐ Organization x☒

Organization (If Applicable): Ohio Scenic Rivers Association

Position/Title: . President

Address: . 3620 Conkle Road

City: . Salem

State: . Ohio

Zip: . 44460x

Best Contact Telephone: . 330-301-0536

Email: . butchy5@gmail.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes x☐ No ☐

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): . HB 96

Specific Issue: . DNAP's proposed budget

Are you testifying as a: Proponent x☐ Opponent ☐ Interested Party ☐

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes ☐ No x☒

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? . none - written testimony

Please provide a brief statement on your position: March 4, 2025

To: Chair Jones, Vice Chair Blasdel, Ranking Member Rogers, and Members of the House Natural Resources Committee

From: Tom Butch, President of the Ohio Scenic Rivers Association (OSRA)

Re: Proposed budget allotment for the ODNR, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP), General Revenue Fund in House Bill 96

Chair Jones, Vice Chair Blasdel, Ranking Member Rogers, and Members of the House Natural Resources Committee,

As president of OSRA I would like to let you know that OSRA supports the proposed budget allotment from the General Revenue Fund for DNAP in House Bill 96.

DNAP currently maintains and stewards 147 State Nature Preserves and 16 Scenic Rivers in Ohio. These areas all preserve the best of the natural habitat remaining in Ohio. These natural habitats provide great recreational opportunities for Ohio citizens and are an economic driver to their local economies.

Some great examples of these wonderful areas can be found in Columbiana County where I live. We have the State Wild and Scenic, and Federal Scenic, Little Beaver Creek. Little Beaver Creek draws many people to our county because it is a well known smallmouth bass fishery, and many paddlers enjoy it since it is one of the most scenic rivers in Ohio. We also have Sheepskin Hollow and Little Beaver Creek State Nature Preserves, which draw many people who enjoy the best that nature has to offer.

Thank you in advance for your support of DNAP's budget.

Tom Butch

*Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.*