

March 13, 2026

Attn: Chair Blasdel, Vice Chair Fischer, Ranking Member Rogers, and Members of the House Natural Resources Committee.

I am an Ohio citizen and, like all Ohioans, I love our state parks and wildlife areas. I write in strong opposition to Senate Bill 219, which would accelerate the leasing of Ohio's state lands for oil and gas development, fast-tracking a process that poses serious risks to our environment, our communities, and our economy.

Fracking is not a benign industrial activity. Each well can consume millions of gallons of water, straining local watersheds and generating toxic wastewater that has been linked to groundwater contamination. The drilling and extraction process releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas, along with volatile organic compounds that degrade air quality and threaten public health in surrounding communities. These are not hypothetical harms; they are documented realities in Ohio and across the Appalachian region.

SB 219 compounds these risks by shortening review timelines and streamlining approvals, giving the public and regulators less opportunity to scrutinize individual leases before drilling begins on this land that belong to all Ohioans. Speed should not come at the expense of safety or accountability.

There is also no economic case for this bill. Ohio's outdoor recreation economy generates more than \$8 billion annually, with state park visitors alone contributing roughly \$392 million in spending. The 2025 "Frackalachia" report from the Ohio River Valley Institute shows that fossil fuel extraction has delivered boom-bust volatility, not lasting prosperity, to communities across our region, with profits flowing largely out of state.

Our public lands deserve protection, not expedited extraction. I expect my representatives to do what is the best interest of our state and act on behalf of the demands of their constituents (with 98 percent of public comments running AGAINST fracking in Ohio's parks). Be responsible, read the data and VOTE NO on SB 219.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Malik
New Albany, OH