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

My name is Randi Pokladnik. I was born and raised in Jefferson and Harrison Counties and I have a doctorate degree in Environmental Studies. My doctoral research focused on threats to the mesophytic forest in the Appalachian region. Fracking is indeed one of the most egregious practices that could be done to an intact ecosystem. It not only fragments that ecosystem but hinders its ability to sustain life and provide a safe watershed for the surrounding streams and lakes.

I am opposed to SB 219. I am concerned about the negative impacts it will bring to our public lands, especially our state parks. The citizens of Ohio pay to keep these lands and enjoy recreating in them. Outside tourists also enjoy Ohio's public lands and this tourism brings millions of dollars into the local economy.

SB 219 will expedite the fracking in our state parks. We have already watched while over 11,000 acres of public land has been approved for fracking. Fracking is not something that should occur anywhere; least of all near or on Ohio parks. I live in one of the most fracked areas in Ohio and close to several of the wildlife areas and parks that have been approved for fracking. Our family has seen the well pads at night and heard them as well. We live less than a mile from a pad. In addition to the noise and lights, there is a constant flow of huge brine waste trucks, sand trucks, and water trucks going back and forth to the pad. This isn't what a tourist wants to see and it isn't safe as well. Air pollution and water pollution will result from the fracking.

Governor DeWine has already vetoed some of the sections of this legislation, yet legislators have added them back into this bill. Why? Using Ohio's public lands as a money maker for the state and sacrificing them to the whims of the fossil fuel industry is a dangerous route to "funding the state." Our kids deserve better. Ohio's citizens deserve better. This bill needs to go away.

Randi Pokladnik

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