

# Opponent Testimony on Sub. S.B. 219

## Ohio House Natural Resources Committee

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Testifying as: Opponent, as an individual

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Chair Robb Blasdel and members of the Committee: thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to Sub. S.B. 219.

I urge you not to advance this bill. Ohio's state parks, wildlife areas, and other public lands were set aside for public use, conservation, recreation, and stewardship. They should not be placed on a faster track for expanded oil and gas development with reduced review and weaker safeguards.

I also serve as a board member of Great Parks Forever, the philanthropic arm of Great Parks of Hamilton County. That role has deepened my appreciation for how important protected public lands are to Ohio communities and why decisions affecting them deserve careful scrutiny, strong oversight, and a clear public-interest standard.

Sub. S.B. 219 moves Ohio in the wrong direction. It accelerates parts of the approval process for oil and gas activity while limiting the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' ability to fully review and deny expedited requests when appropriate. It also weakens local protections by making road use agreements voluntary and exempting certain heavy hauling activity from permit requirements. Those changes can shift more risk and cost onto local communities, public infrastructure, and the people who use these lands.

This bill also sends the wrong message about oversight. When an industry involves wastewater injection, truck traffic, spill risk, and potential impacts to public land and water, the answer should be strong regulation and careful review, not less scrutiny and more convenience for operators. Ohioans deserve confidence that public resources are being protected first.

I value Ohio's public lands and want them preserved for hiking, fishing, camping, wildlife, and future generations. Please oppose Sub. S.B. 219 and do not advance it out of committee. Thank you for your time and consideration.