

To the Honorable Natural Resources Committee Chair Blasdel, Vice Chair Fischer, and Ranking Member Rogers, my name is Randy Cunningham, and I am testifying today in opposition to Substitute Senate Bill number 219.

My main reason for opposing this bill is that it continues to heap insult upon injury upon Ohio's public lands, by further expanding fracking activities in these public lands, and diminishing further the already lax regulation of those activities. A reasonable person must wonder why the State of Ohio continues to have public lands such as State Parks, State Forests, and Nature Reserves, when they are fair game for extractive industries such as oil and gas fracking. Ordinary people assume that our public lands are for the public. That they are for the enjoyment and recreation of the public. They do not think that this means picnicking, boating and camping among oil and gas wells. You can just hear the oil and gas boys and their allies in the State House laughing at these silly people. "They really think the public lands are for the public! Ha, ha, ha! What fools!"

The public lands of Ohio should be sacred. They should be held in reserve for the citizens of Ohio to the exclusion of all other interests. The rest of Ohio may be an economic free fire zone, but not these public lands. Senate Bill 219 is a bill of rights for the money changers who defile our public land. They should be temples for the people, not dens of thieves. Jesus knew how to deal with that problem, and we should follow his example. Say No to 219. Thank you.
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