

Alissa Friedman
3105 Griggsvie Ct.
Columbus, OH 43221

March 16, 2026

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

My name is Alissa Friedman, and I live in Columbus, Ohio. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 219.

SB 219 is framed as a revision to the law governing oil and gas wells, but its real effect is to speed up fracking of Ohio's state parks and public lands at every stage of the process — while simultaneously weakening ODNR's ability to regulate the industry. That is not a tradeoff that serves Ohio citizens.

I want to focus on a few specific concerns. First, the bill dramatically accelerates the timeline for fracking nominations on public land. The Oil and Gas Land Management Commission currently has 180 days to evaluate a nomination — a period that exists for good reason, given the complexity of decisions about public resources. SB 219 cuts that window in half, and pairs it with requirements for immediate bidding and 60-day selection deadlines. The cumulative effect is a fast track for fracking our state parks, with almost no time for meaningful public input or agency deliberation.

Even more troubling is the provision that would allow “surface use” of state land by oil and gas companies — meaning fracking infrastructure physically located inside state parks and wildlife areas. This directly reverses the rule Governor DeWine established prohibiting surface use within these lands. The Governor already rejected these provisions when they were included in the state budget last year. The legislature is now attempting to pass them through a standalone bill, and I'd ask the committee to consider why that is.

I'm also concerned about provisions that would limit ODNR's ability to hold companies accountable. Restricting the agency to charges specifically outlined in a lease could prevent the state from fining companies that violate their agreements or requiring them to pay for cleanup after a spill or accident. Separately, making road use maintenance agreements with local governments voluntary — and exempting overweight fracking trucks from heavy hauling permit requirements — shifts the burden of wear and tear on rural roads directly to local communities and taxpayers.

Ohio's state parks and wildlife areas belong to the people of this state. We pay for them, we use them, and we count on our legislators to protect them. I urge the committee to oppose SB 219.

Alissa Friedman
Columbus, Ohio
alissafr@gmail.com