

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

My name is Mackenzie Doyle, and I live in Cincinnati, OH. I am the Justice Promoter for the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. My Catholic faith urges me to speak for all creation and to take care of our common home for future generations. I am testifying today as an Ohio citizen who loves our state parks and wildlife areas, and as a taxpayer who pays for the state parks in Ohio, I want to see those areas protected for future generations of Ohioans to enjoy.

Thus, I am opposed to SB 219 because it speeds up the process to frack our state parks and public lands even more than it already is. So far the state has already approved over 11,000 acres of our parks and wildlife areas for fracking, putting those areas in danger of contamination. This would prevent future Ohioans from getting to enjoy and explore our state parks as I have been able to.

Moreover, the toxic effects of fracking are concerning for all Ohioans. The summer of 2024 was the driest summer Ohio has seen in over a decade. For Ohioans this meant decrease in agricultural yield and severe ecological challenges, with many Ohioans seeing nearby water sources drying up. Water is becoming an increasingly precious resource in Ohio, and a report from *Save Ohio Parks* shows that fracking in our state parks and wildlife areas has already committed to use over **1.9 billion gallons of Ohio's fresh water**, making that water toxic from being exposed to chemicals.¹ It must be disposed of in frack waste injection wells, where the wastewater has been found to leak and migrate into production wells and orphan wells, leading to concern about safe drinking water.² As some wells have already caused issues about leaking and contamination, I am greatly concerned about SB 219 curtailing the ability of ODNR to regulate injection wells and orphan wells. Therefore, fracking today, while appearing to make short-term profits, will end up creating more scarcity issues down the line in Ohio and even cost Ohioans their health.

I urge you then to **vote no** on SB 219, and take a stand for future generations of Ohio to not only enjoy our state parks but also to protect our water from contamination and misuse. Stop the oil and gas industry from continuing to run unchecked in the state of Ohio and continuing to poison our fellow Ohioans.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,
Mackenzie Doyle

Justice Promoter for the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

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<https://saveohioparks.org/issues/fracking-of-state-parks-and-public-lands-to-use-at-least-1-9-billion-gallons-of-ohios-fresh-water/>.

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<https://ohiocapitaljournal.com/2024/07/31/after-more-than-a-decade-of-advocacy-a-majority-of-injection-wells-in-athens-county-are-suspended/>.