

Senate Bill 219--OPPOSITION TESTIMONY
Jenny Morgan--Founder of The Leave No Child INSIDE Central Ohio Collaborative

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

My name is Jenny Morgan, and I live in Westerville, Ohio. I am a founder of the *Leave No Child INSIDE Central Ohio Collaborative*. Since 2007, I have helped lead the central Ohio Leave No Child Inside movement that is part of a much larger, international movement to connect our children and families with our beloved natural world.

WHY is this movement so necessary? Because, more and more of our children are suffering from an indoor, sedentary lifestyle that is wreaking havoc on their physical and mental health. Because of this indoor lifestyle, our children are suffering from obesity, anxiety, depression, myopia, brittle bones, and much more.

WHY is this LEAVE NO CHILD INSIDE movement resonating and so successful? Because more and more research is proving that frequent time in nature can help HEAL all of these ailments. In other words, our natural spaces are CRITICAL for our children's healthy development. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends an hour a day of outdoor play.

The caveat, of course, is that in order for these natural spaces to have a positive impact on our children's health, these spaces MUST be kept safe and healthy themselves. Violence in these natural spaces is not an option—no guns, no poisonous air or water or land. EVERY OHIO CHILD DESERVES ACCESS TO SAFE, CLEAN AND HEALTHY NATURAL SPACES.

Contrary to the oil and gas idiotic propaganda, oil and gas drilling is anything but safe and healthy. Case in point: There is an oil and gas incident happening here in Ohio nearly every day! These incidents are logged at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources—explosions, spills, fires, poisoned animals, poisoned drinking water, radioactive waste, and much more. In fact, in 2016, Governor Kasich declared an oil and gas state of emergency. WHY? Because Ohio was experiencing so many oil/gas accidents, without a structure in place to deal with all of them. Executive ORDER 2016-04K would set up a 24/7 oil and gas hotline, and new and amended reporting laws and rules.

The fact that you are allowing poisonous and dangerous oil and gas drilling of our children's beloved parks is shameful! You are choosing an ACCIDENT-PRONE INDUSTRY THAT CREATES BILLIONS OF GALLONS, AND TONS UPON TONS OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE, OVER OUR CHILDREN'S HEALTH! You are choosing ENDLESS HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS, CONTAMINATION, NOISE AND LIGHT POLLUTION OVER OUR CHILDREN'S HEALTH! YOU ARE GUILTY OF A CRIME AGAINST OHIO'S CHILDREN! The fact that you are considering Senate Bill 219, rather than a BILL that would place a moratorium on the drilling of our children's parks and wildlife areas IS A CRIME OF THE HIGHEST ORDER! HEAR YE!! HEAR YE! I WOULD LIKE TO REPORT A CRIME!!

Have you no heart... No compassion...No critical thinking skills to help you see this reckless industry for what it really is?! IT'S A GREEDY, EVIL, DECEITFUL, DANGEROUS CONTAMINATING INDUSTRY THAT IS KILLING US, AND OUR CHILDREN, YOUR CHILDREN—YOUR GRAND CHILDREN! FOR GOD'S SAKES--WAKE UP! YOU MUST STEP IN NOW TO STOP THIS CRIME! SAVE OUR PARKS! SAVE OUR CHILDREN! FOR THE SAKE OF OUR OHIO CHILDREN, I ASK, I BEG OF YOU, I DEMAND, I DEMAND, **I DEMAND** THAT YOU VOTE **NO** ON SB 219, AND INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN'S PARKS IN PERPETUITY!

