

March 18, 2026

TO: Ohio Natural Resources Committee
RE: Opposition to Ohio Senate Bill 219

Chair Robb-Blasdel, Vice Chair Fischer, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the House Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Patricia Marida. I am a Columbus resident and a pharmacist, retired. I grew up on a farm in Northwest Ohio and I spent a lot of my childhood outdoors. My family did a lot of camping, and we enjoyed visiting Ohio's natural areas and preserves. I graduated from The Ohio State University and have spent all but one of my 84 years living in Ohio. In turn, my husband and I and our two boy scout sons did a lot of hiking, camping, canoeing, and cycling around the state, particularly in Ohio's parks and preserves.

Since I was a child, Ohio has built its turnpike and all its freeways and many new roads. Cities have grown from small to gigantic. This has unfortunately left Ohio's parks as some of the only places left for visitors that are not encroached upon by roads and development. Where Ohioans and tourists can go to get a peek at and commune with the natural world. In 2026, where families can take their kids away from the world of electronics.

As a person who greatly values the intricacies of the natural world, and our dependence on it, I am dismayed by its mindless destruction. This has been brought to Ohio by increasingly powerful corporations – entities on paper that don't have a conscience. It continues to be allowed by legislators who indeed are endowed with consciences.

- **IS NOTHING SACRED?** SB 210 would allow fracking **INSIDE** Ohio's parks.
- **SB 219 would stop the ODNR from regulating injection wells.**
- PFAS (forever chemicals) are used in fracking, as documented in this 2021 report by Physician for Social Responsibility (PSR): [Fracking With "Forever Chemicals."](#) **Legislators should know that PFAS are already in the bloodstreams of their children and grandchildren**, not just in mine.
- Ohio's important **tourist industry is being devastated.**

Environmental destruction will last for hundreds if not thousands of years - for a temporary "fix" of fossil fuels. As a health professional, I am opposed to what is going on with deep well hydrologic fracturing. This is also called extreme energy, because natural gas no longer comes from ordinary, straight down drilled wells. President Obama oversaw the development of this extreme energy – drilling down over a mile, using the newly-invented remote drillhead and adding 600+ chemicals, many of which are toxic and/or carcinogenic, to fracking fluid. **Rather than making sure chemicals are safe before allowing them to be manufactured and released into the environment, it is left to the public to prove ill effects after the fact.** Half of these chemicals are left underground. The other half that comes back up is being put back underground in injection wells. The earth is constantly moving and changing. Already some of this is returning to the surface via **leaks and accidents. More is sure to follow, moving into aquifers.**

Instead of conservation and efficiency, elected officials are desperately trying to extract more fossil fuels that are increasingly harder to get and have a much higher EROEI, Energy Return On Energy Invested.

Fracking uses vast amounts of water, competing with farmers, towns, and even dewatering lakes. I cringe when I think of so many of the parks I love being turned into noisy industrial zones.

VOTE NO ON SB 219!