

## **Testimony by Mimi Plevin-Foust on SB 219**

Board Member, Legislative Committee Chair, FaCT Ohio  
(Faith Communities Together for a Sustainable Future)

*House Natural Resources Committee*

*March 17, 2026*

Chair Blasdel, Vice Chair Fischer, Ranking Member Rogers, and Members of the House Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the chance to submit opponent testimony on Senate Bill 219, a bill to revise the law governing oil and gas wells.

I'm Mimi Plevin-Foust--a concerned Ohio parent and voter. I'm also a Board Member and Legislative Committee Chair for FaCT Ohio (Faith Communities Together for a Sustainable Future). And I have many wonderful memories of spending time in Ohio's state parks from Punderson to Salt Fork and many others on trips with my family, retreats with my synagogue, and girls' weekends hiking and relaxing away from home.

I'm thankful for all Ohioans past and present who had the foresight to set these beautiful lakes and forests aside and maintain them so beautifully for us today. They are featured in Ohio's tourism campaigns for good reason. We know how healing it is in a hectic world to be able to spend time in beautiful, unspoiled settings relaxing or doing the activities we love. And a 2023 report released by ODNR showed that wildlife-based recreation contributed nearly \$12.5 billion to Ohio's economy in 2022 alone and provided nearly 80,000 jobs.

I see that Chair Blasdel just won the Conservation Legislator of the Year Award and that Vice Chair Fischer was the National Field Director of the American Conservation Coalition and that Representative Hiner serves on the Tourism Committee so it's clear you all understand the value of conserving these natural spaces for all Ohioans and our children and grandkids. It's our birthright, one that we Ohioans should be very proud of.

That's why I think you will agree with me and 98% of all Ohioans who strongly believe that we should not risk permanently despoiling the water, air, land and wildlife in our parks and public lands by allowing fracking to take place within or underneath them. I would think that as people who value conservation you would frankly be insulted by the 87 pages of SB 219 that are nothing but a Christmas present bonanza for the oil and gas industry at the expense of Ohio families and future generations.

Before you hold a vote on this bill, please ask your own children and grandchildren if you have them, how they would feel about allowing fracking in our parks. These parks and all of Ohio's water, land and air are their inheritance from us: Why would we risk allowing out of

state or even foreign companies to trash them, taking the profits off to their shareholders and leaving us with permanently trashed remnants of areas that were once Ohio's jewels?

Who are these company CEOs or lobby groups who have somehow created a permission structure that would let your colleagues in the Senate even consider a bill like SB 219 for a single second?

Ask your children how they would want you to vote on this. Ask them how they feel about their future on this planet. They are the ones we are responsible for who will inherit whatever we have been wise enough to guard and cherish for them – not the CEOs who will extract Ohio's resources but care nothing for us or our families.

Thank you for your strongest consideration of my testimony.