



Deidre R. Petrosky
Mayor - City of Cortland
400 North High Street, Cortland, Ohio 44410

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Koehler, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. My name is Deidre Petrosky, and I am the Mayor of the City of Cortland. Our city is adjacent to Mosquito Lake State Park, and I am writing to express my strong support for the inclusion of a Special Projects line item in HB 96, specifically dedicated to Mosquito Creek Lake. We respectfully request \$500,000 in each fiscal year to address long-standing challenges related to invasive species management and water quality.

Mosquito Creek Lake is a vital environmental and recreational asset for our region. The lake draws visitors from across Ohio and beyond, supporting local businesses and enhancing the quality of life for residents. However, it faces serious threats from invasive aquatic species—particularly hydrilla—as well as sedimentation and water quality degradation.

In response to these challenges, our community has come together to leverage significant public and private investments. We have already utilized \$330,000 from the Strategic Community Investment Fund (SCIF), matched by \$300,000 in additional funding from the Trumbull County Commissioners. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has also been directly involved in mitigation efforts.

Further support comes from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through a Section 22 Study under the Water Resources Development Act of 1974. The sedimentation component of this study has been funded and is awaiting the release of \$125,000 in federal funds. Additionally, the Corps has pledged \$250,000 toward the broader study, with a \$125,000 local match again committed by the Trumbull County Commissioners.

We are also proud of the public-private collaboration led by the Friends of Mosquito Lake and the Western Reserve Building Trades. They are transforming two historic cabins into an educational center—an inspiring example of community-driven engagement and private-sector partnership.

With so much momentum behind this effort, state support through HB 96 is critical to maintaining progress and ensuring long-term stewardship of Mosquito Creek Lake. I respectfully urge you to vote **YES** on this Special Projects line item.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration,

Deidre R. Petrosky, Mayor