



**CHAGRIN
RIVER
WATERSHED
PARTNERS**

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www.crwpp.org

May 13, 2025

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

My name is Keely Davidson-Bennett and I am the Director of Special Projects at Chagrin River Watershed Partners. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify regarding House Bill 96 on behalf of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Natural Areas and Preserves. Specifically, I ask that you retain the funding for the Division as it was presented in Governor DeWine's proposed fiscal year 2026-2027 operating budget and was recently passed by the House of Representative.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Natural Areas and Preserves manages many nature preserves throughout the state and the Scenic Rivers Program. State Nature Preserves provide opportunities for Ohioans to experience high quality, unique natural areas. The Scenic Rivers Program helps to maintain high quality streams in Ohio, including the Chagrin River. Funding these programs will allow the important natural resources stewardship and educational efforts of the Division to continue.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

Keely Davidson-Bennett
Director of Special Projects