

May 13th, 2023

Members of the Ohio Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

I am writing this today to request your support for the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves (DNAP) portion of the Ohio Division of Natural Resources budget as part of House Bill 96.

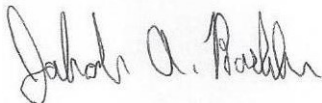
DNAP plays a critical role in protecting some of the most unique and ecologically important natural areas in the State of Ohio. These include our beautiful state nature preserves, natural areas, and our scenic rivers that all provide Ohio citizens with opportunities to explore the outdoors, connect with nature, and see the best remaining examples of Ohio's rich natural heritage. If not fully funded, issues like invasive species could greatly impact already rare plant species in Ohio and put further strain on threatened ecosystems.

An especially important part of DNAP is the Scenic Rivers Program that protects some of our most important waterways. The Scenic Rivers Program plays an important role in protecting our waters through the improvement of riparian areas along our rivers that help to reduce nutrient loading to our streams and Lake Erie, control flooding, and protect important wildlife diversity.

Both the Scenic Rivers Program and DNAP provide Ohioans with excellent opportunities for recreational use such as hiking, kayaking, bird watching, and much more. Supporting funding for these programs is critical to providing these opportunities for Ohio's citizens.

Ohio has historically taken great steps to help protect our natural resources and should continue to lead this effort by supporting these important programs!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jakob A. Boehler". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Jakob Boehler  
Seneca County Resident