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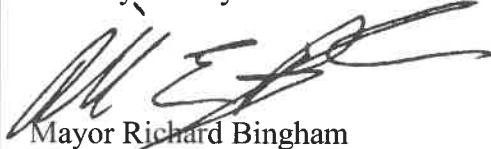
Good day to you members of the Senate Agriculture Committee. My name is Richard Bingham, and I am the Mayor of the Village of Whitehouse. I am writing this letter offering testimony in strong support of increased funding for the remediation of log jams in our region's waterways.

Log jams, while sometimes part of a natural waterway system, have increasingly become a hazard in Northwest Ohio due to altered land use, aging infrastructure, and extreme weather events, but most of all, flooding. In our area, unmanaged log jams are causing significant ecological, economic, and public safety issues. They obstruct water flow, exacerbate flooding during storms, erode waterway banks, damage bridges and culverts, and can even endanger lives and property. These effects are not isolated-they ripple out to affect agriculture, recreation, water quality, and wildlife habitats.

Our creeks and ditches are vital lifelines for communities, ecosystems, and economies. Without adequate funding for remediation efforts, the situation will only worsen. Preventative and targeted removal of harmful log jams allows for the restoration of healthy flow conditions while minimizing harm to fish and wildlife habitats. Moreover, proactive management is far more cost-effective than emergency response after infrastructure failure or flood damage.

The funding we are requesting is not just an environmental expense-it is an investment in our bedroom community, public safety, and long-term sustainability. On behalf of our region's citizens, I urge you to support dedicated funding for log jam remediation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Mayor Richard Bingham