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H.C.R. No. 13 Sponsor Testimony
Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
September 30th, 2025

Chair Schaffer, Vice-Chair Koehler, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Ohio Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 13, to Urge Congress to designate Buckeye Trail a National Scenic Trail. My joint sponsor, Representative James Hoops, and I look forward to productive conversations with the committee and all related stakeholders.

The **Buckeye Trail**, established in 1959 by the Buckeye Trail Association, is a 1,454-mile loop that winds from the shores of Lake Erie to the Ohio River. Along the way, it crosses farmland in the northwest, the rolling hills of Appalachia, the sandstone cliffs of the Hocking Hills, and into the Bluegrass region of the southwest. This trail truly encompasses the vast diversity and beauty that is Ohio.

Right now, the **National Park Service is conducting a feasibility study** to determine whether the Buckeye Trail meets the criteria for designation as a National Scenic Trail. This study is a critical step—it evaluates the trail’s accessibility, its conservation value, and its alignment with the goals of the National Scenic Trails System. Once completed, the Park Service will submit its findings to the Secretary of the Interior, who may then recommend it to Congress for designation.

This resolution much like the trail itself demonstrates the interconnectivity that is present in our state, being a show of bipartisan work and support. While also demonstrating the economic development opportunities and contributing to the health of communities that scenic trails bring to communities they connect. This project is a testament between many Ohioans that love our parks, trails, and the natural beauty of the Buckeye state

This resolution states that we, as the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, **support that designation**. We recognize the potential of the Buckeye Trail—not just as a natural and recreational asset, but as an economic driver for tourism and a point of pride for communities across our state.

I respectfully urge your support for this resolution, and I thank you for your time and consideration.