

**Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**  
**Proponent Testimony: House Concurrent Resolution 13**

Chair Schaffer, Vice Chair Koehler, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as a proponent of House Concurrent Resolution 13 to urge the United States Congress to designate the Buckeye Trail as a National Scenic Trail.

My name is Mary Turocy, and I serve as the Director of Policy and Government Relations for The Nature Conservancy in Ohio. The Nature Conservancy is a global organization with chapters in all 50 states and projects in over 80 countries. We are a non-partisan, science-based organization that seeks to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. We work collaboratively with other conservation organizations, farmers, businesses, sportsmen groups, governments, and local communities to develop pragmatic solutions to conservation challenges including land protection and water quality. More than 65,000 Ohioans are supporters of The Nature Conservancy, and we own and manage over 20,000 acres of nature preserves throughout the state.

The Nature Conservancy supports the passage of HCR 13 to celebrate the outstanding recreational, historic, ecological, and geologic value the Buckeye Trail holds in Ohio. This trail circumnavigates Ohio and offers its travelers the best our state has to offer – from the shores of Lake Erie, to the hills of Appalachia, to the banks of the Ohio River, and all the communities, people, and ecosystems that the trail connects, the Buckeye Trail truly is a national treasure. Designating the Buckeye as a National Scenic Trail would elevate community awareness, engagement, and pride in Ohio's most beautiful places.

Though roughly 70% of the Buckeye Trail is part of the nationally recognized North Country Trail, the Buckeye deserves its own national recognition for the unique place it holds in the hearts of so many Ohioans.

The Nature Conservancy thanks Representatives Hoops and Robinson for their sponsorship of this Resolution, and we respectfully urge passage of HCR 13 to proudly affirm Ohio's commitment to accessible outdoor recreation and pride in our natural spaces. Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit testimony and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Mary Turocy  
Director of Policy and Government Relations - Ohio  
The Nature Conservancy