

Statement on Ohio Senate Bill 219

As a lifelong resident of Northeast Ohio, I am deeply alarmed by the devastating consequences that SB219 would bring to our communities and natural spaces. Each week, I spend hours in our state parks, finding peace and renewal in their beauty. I also founded Heights Tree People, a local organization that has planted more than 1,200 trees across the Cleveland area—because I believe in restoring and protecting our environment, not destroying it. Ohio should never be treated as a dumping ground for toxic waste or a playground for fracking and drilling interests. Our water, our health, and the well-being of our communities must come before short-term profit. Diverting environmental protection funds from the Oil and Gas Well Fund to county general funds—where they can be used for anything—betrays the very purpose of these protections. This proposal is not only irresponsible; it is unconscionable. If our legislators truly care about the health and safety of their constituents, they will reject SB219 and stand up for the people and places that make Ohio worth calling home.