



LITTLE MIAMI

Watershed Network

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Restore H2Ohio Funding: A Bipartisan Investment in Clean Water

Dear Senator Cirino and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to respectfully urge your support for restoring funding of H2Ohio as an investment in Ohio's watersheds and the protection and restoration of our state's wetlands. As Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, your leadership plays a critical role in prioritizing funding that safeguards both our environment and public health.

I serve as the Executive Director of the Little Miami Watershed Network in Southwest Ohio. Our grassroots non-profit, formed 15 years ago this summer, serves as a voice to advocate for the delicate balance of progress both environmentally and economically. We promote responsible solutions to keep water clean for the citizens, municipalities, and organizations within the 11-county watershed between Clark County and Hamilton County. Nearly 1.5 million Ohioans reside in the watershed.

Through my work at LMWN, I have witnessed firsthand the deep and widespread concern the community holds for water issues. The H2Ohio projects demonstrate that support for clean water initiatives is not only strong, but also remarkably bipartisan—reflecting a shared priority across the state.

Wetlands are often described as the "kidneys of the environment" because of their extraordinary ability to filter pollutants, regulate water flow, and support biodiversity. Yet, Ohio has already lost more than 90% of its original wetlands—an alarming statistic that underscores the urgency of taking action now.

By investing in wetland conservation, we can make measurable improvements to water quality by filtering out harmful chemicals and excess nutrients before they reach our rivers, lakes, and drinking water sources. Wetlands also reduce stormwater runoff and act as natural flood control systems—saving millions of dollars in potential infrastructure damage and emergency response.

Additionally, wetlands provide vital habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife, many of which are integral to Ohio's outdoor recreation and tourism economy. These natural areas are not only environmental assets—they are economic ones as well.

We have a responsibility to be good stewards of the land and water resources we depend on. The decisions we make today will shape the health, resilience, and prosperity of Ohio communities for decades to come. Preserving and restoring wetlands is a practical and forward-thinking approach to ensuring clean water, healthy ecosystems, and sustainable development.

For all these reasons, I strongly encourage you to support robust and sustained funding for watershed and wetland conservation initiatives across Ohio through H2Ohio. Protecting our natural water systems is one of the smartest investments we can make for the environment, the economy, and future generations.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to protecting Ohio's natural resources.

Sincerely,

Alison Pifer

Executive Director

Little Miami Watershed Network

The Little Miami Watershed Network an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose EIN is 88-2334595.



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