

Senate Finance Committee
Testimony in Support of H2Ohio program funding
Provided by Erin Finley of Mark Haynes Construction
May 30, 2025

Chairman Jerry Cirino, Vice-Chair Brian Chavez, Ranking member Paula Hicks-Hudson and members of the Senate Finance Committee, my name is Erin Finley, and I am a senior project manager at Mark Haynes Construction based in Norwalk, Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding the H2Ohio program funding and restoring the full amount of \$270 million as proposed by Governor DeWine.

As a company, we have been in business for over 30 years and have developed a reputation as a premier shoreline and wetland contractor in Ohio. We have worked for a multitude of clients including but not limited to ODNR, ODOT, municipalities, park districts and conservation districts throughout the state. We have performed watershed conservation projects and performed extensive stream and wetland habitat restoration projects along not only the coasts of Lake Erie, but within a variety of riverine systems both large and small. In just the past five years, we have completed nearly 40 ecological restoration projects throughout Ohio.

The livelihood of our company and its employees, nearing 70 people, would not be possible without funding from programs like the H2Ohio program. We believe improving water quality and protecting Ohio's water resources is vital for future generations. We are proud to do our part in that initiative not only for our own families but for all Ohioans.

With H2Ohio funding over 200 projects to date, we know first-hand how important these budget dollars will be for our future work. As we believe in this program and initiative considerably, we have invested in specialized machinery and training to be able to perform restoration work with efficiency while limiting our impacts to the surrounding habitat. One example of this is the Maumee River Clark Island project where utilizing the specialized equipment we completed the project nearly one year ahead of schedule and under budget. This allowed additional restoration work to be completed and a better finished project overall while not requesting more money.

We strongly encourage that funding for the H2Ohio program continues and at the full amount as established in previous year's budgets. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to testify about the wonderful work the H2Ohio program has done.



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