## As Introduced

## 136th General Assembly Regular Session 2025-2026

S. R. No. 216

## **Senator Huffman**

Cosponsors: Senators Antonio, Blackshear, Blessing, Brenner, DeMora, Hicks-Hudson, Ingram, Landis, Liston, Manchester, O'Brien, Patton, Reineke, Reynolds, Romanchuk, Schaffer, Smith, Timken, Weinstein, Wilkin, Wilson

## **A RESOLUTION**

Honoring the Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks and Watercraft on receiving the
2025 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in
Park and Recreation Management.

WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the 136th General Assembly	Τ
of Ohio are pleased to commend the Ohio Department of Natural	2
Resources Division of Parks and Watercraft on being presented with the	3
2025 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation	4
Management by the American Academy for Park and Recreation	5
Administration and the National Recreation and Park Association; and	6
WHEREAS, This is a prestigious achievement, and it provides an	7
ideal time to acknowledge the exceptional work done by the ODNR	8
Division of Parks and Watercraft. Time and again, the organization has	9
diligently protected Ohio's natural resources while also maintaining	10
an impressive commitment to innovation, accessibility, and	11
conservation, and it has engaged in an array of worthwhile activities	12
and projects aimed at strengthening our state's park system, including	13
the recent development of Great Council State Park; and	14
WHEREAS, The ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft has attained a	15
praiseworthy record of service to the residents of Ohio, and it has	16
earned the well-deserved respect and appreciation of all those it has	17
served. Indeed, it has set a fine example for other such agencies in	18
neighboring states, and receiving this year's National Gold Medal	19

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Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management is a	20
justifiable source of pride and an excellent reflection not only on	21
the organization itself but also on its hard-working staff and	22
volunteers; and	23
WHEREAS, All those associated with the ODNR Division of Parks and	24
Watercraft, including the director, Mary Mertz, and the division	25
chief, Glen Cobb, have applied vision and expertise to the task of	26
protecting and preserving the environment while providing the public	27
with recreational opportunities. They are to be congratulated for	28
their foresight, dedication, and selfless donations of time, energy,	29
and ability far beyond what was required or expected. We are proud to	30
note that it is through the diligent efforts of conscientious	31
individuals such as these that the State of Ohio continues to grow and	32
prosper and remains a pleasant place in which to live and work;	33
therefore be it	34
RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 136th General	35
Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this Resolution, applaud the Ohio	36
Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Watercraft on	37
its national accolade and extend best wishes for ongoing success; and	38
be it further	39
RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a duly	40
authenticated copy of this Resolution to the Ohio Department of	41
Natural Resources Division of Parks and Watercraft.	42