

**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  
of Ohio are pleased to commend the Ohio Department of Natural  
Resources Division of Parks and Watercraft on being presented with the  
2025 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation  
Management by the American Academy for Park and Recreation  
Administration and the National Recreation and Park Association; and

WHEREAS, This is a prestigious achievement, and it provides an  
ideal time to acknowledge the exceptional work done by the ODNR  
Division of Parks and Watercraft. Time and again, the organization has  
diligently protected Ohio's natural resources while also maintaining  
an impressive commitment to innovation, accessibility, and  
conservation, and it has engaged in an array of worthwhile activities  
and projects aimed at strengthening our state's park system, including  
the recent development of Great Council State Park; and

WHEREAS, The ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft has attained a  
praiseworthy record of service to the residents of Ohio, and it has  
earned the well-deserved respect and appreciation of all those it has  
served. Indeed, it has set a fine example for other such agencies in  
neighboring states, and receiving this year's National Gold Medal

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