



**Opponent Testimony of Greater Dayton Partners for the Environment  
House Bill 175  
Presented to the Ohio Agricultural and Conservation Committee  
May 17, 2021**

Chairman Koehler, Vice Chair Creech, Ranking Member Brent and Members of the Ohio House Agriculture and Conservation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee today on House Bill 175 (HB 175). My name is Eric Sauer, Co-Chair with the Greater Dayton Partners for the Environment, an alliance of more than 40 environmental organizations, government and civic organizations, and public and private educational institutions in southwest Ohio.

The Greater Dayton Partners for the Environment opposes Ohio House Bill 175 and asks you to do the same.

This bill would directly harm our drinking water by allowing pollution to enter ephemeral streams. Surface water is the source of drinking water for the majority of Ohio communities. This bill will weaken protections for drinking water sources at the time when we need to do all we can to increase and strengthen enforcement of safeguards. HB 175 will result in these detrimental impacts because it will allow for the discharge of sewage, brine, coal mining waste, and chemical toxins.

Research indicates that ephemeral streams make up at least one-third of the total stream miles in the state, if not more, and our water quality fundamentally depends on these small streams. Ephemeral waters are critical resources that play a major role in managing floodwaters, filtering contaminants, and providing habitat for a variety of plant and animal species surrounding the rivers in our region including the Great Miami, Little Miami, Mad, and Stillwater rivers, and across Ohio.

The Partners for the Environment is an alliance of more than 40 environmental organizations, government and civic organizations, and public and private educational institutions. These organizations share the common goal of protecting, restoring, preserving, and promoting the environmental and agricultural resources of the Great Miami River and Little Miami River Watersheds – an 18 county region in southwest Ohio.

We are certain you value clean water for our future. There is clear scientific evidence that ephemeral waters play a crucial role for human health. Please oppose Ohio House Bill 175.



In conclusion, Chairman and Members of the committee, thank you for considering our perspective and our recommendations. I would be happy to answer any questions if you have them.

Eric Sauer  
Co-Chair  
Greater Dayton Partners for the Environment

3155 Research Blvd., Suite 204

Dayton, Ohio 45420

[www.gdpartners.org](http://www.gdpartners.org)

[esauer@metroparks.org](mailto:esauer@metroparks.org)