



Opponent Testimony of Aubrey Miller
House Bill 175
Presented to the Ohio Agricultural and Conservation Committee
September 27, 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 Aubrey Miller, Founder and CEO with Redbudsuds, and a member of the Great Lakes Business Network.

Clean water is essential to my business, the health of my family, and prosperity of communities across the state. Ohio must protect clean water as a top priority and oppose this proposed change to lift protections for ephemeral streams. In the previous three hearings, more than 30 people opposed H.B. 175, and the proposed amendment does not change anything – this bill threatens the health of streams and surface water sources that Ohians depend on.

Redbudsuds manufactures natural soap and shampoo for a niche audience of outdoor adventure enthusiasts and folks interested in natural health. My customers are primarily Ohioans, though we sell online and wholesale nationwide – bringing out-of-state dollars into Ohio. I am in the business of making soap, and I make connections for people between the beauty of nature where they love to recreate, and the products they use every day.

While exploring the expansive land and water Ohio has to offer, outdoor enthusiasts support a range of industries, from food and lodging to retail and outdoor rec to specialty product lines like Redbudsuds - made with adventure in mind. As if the aesthetic and cultural value of our natural resources was not reason enough to protect them, consider the economic value. Outdoor recreation in Ohio supports more than [140,000 direct jobs, adding more than \\$11 billion](#) to the state economy each year.

It is common sense that we would want to do everything we can to protect this most basic human need - access to clean water. Ephemeral streams are critical because water knows no boundaries. It's common sense that all water is connected.

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.

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