

Opponent Testimony of Janice Oakley

House Bill 175

Presented to the Ohio House 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 Janice Oakley.

Water quality is a priority for Ohio, it is a key driver for our economy and the health of Ohioans. Removing protections for ephemeral streams will reduce water quality throughout the state jeopardizing the economic and public health benefits.

Removing protections for ephemeral streams jeopardizes drinking water throughout the state as many communities get their drinking water from surface water sources. If HB 175 removes regulatory protection for ephemeral streams and someone pollutes that waterway going forward that pollution will end up downstream causing harm to Ohioans like me.

If HB 175 is passed the cost of cleaning up pollution will be transferred from industry to Ohioans due to the increased burden of treating water at water treatment facilities rather than where pollution is generated.

I don't like the whole concept of this bill because I don't think the legislators value the clean drinking water that we get from sources such as Lake Erie (for me) which is affected by ephemeral streams running down hill to the lowest points, as we know water does. Ohio is poised to attract many people from states that are being ruined by drought. You need to think about this when deciding on this bill.

In conclusion, Chairman and Members of the committee, thank you for considering my perspective.

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