



**Before the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee
House Bill 301 – Ohio Public Lands Day
Sponsor Testimony by
Representatives Michael J. Skindell
Tuesday, October 12, 2021**

Chairman Koehler, Vice Chair Creech, Ranking Member Brent and members of the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on H.B. 301. This legislation designates the last Saturday in September as Ohio Public Lands Day. In 2015, the Ohio House passed House Resolution 120 recognizing the 2015 National Public Lands Day. Celebrating Ohio’s public lands should be a reoccurring event in our state.

Ohio has 421,700 acres of public land (1.6% of Ohio) owned by the states, and additionally 256,960 (.98% of Ohio) owned by the Federal Government. In their respective legislatures, the states of Colorado, Washington, and New Mexico have honored the benefits of their public lands by designating a public lands day.

It is important for Ohio to designate a Public Lands Day to celebrate and conserve the natural treasures of our state, such as state forests, wildlife areas, reservoirs, trails and boating areas. Whether it is for recreation, exercise, fishing, hunting, education, or family bonding, our public lands provide value to all Ohioans. Establishing an Ohio Public Lands Day would invite all to enjoy the great outdoors and celebrate the lands that give us so much.

Chairman Koehler, Vice Chair Ginter, Ranking Member Brent and members of the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on H.B. 301. We would be happy to answer any questions relating to this matter.