

March 14, 2022

**IMPLEMENT**

Hon. Tim Schaffer  
Ohio Senator, 20th District  
Senate Building, Rm 128  
Columbus, OH 43215

**RE: HB 175 - EPHEMERAL STREAMS LEGISLATION**

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Dear Chairman Schaffer:

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to HB 175 as a Professional Landscape Architect in the State of Ohio and Educator at The Ohio State University. Landscape Architects play a unique role in this regulatory process. We often sit on both sides of the table, as both designers and stewards of the land and natural resources. So we must understand the full range of this issue. My opposition is rooted in a range of economic, ecological, and cultural concerns.

**Fundamentally, ALL water quality is connected, it's a cycle!**

**1. Deregulation won't save money it will pass expense and HIDDEN COSTS on to others.**

- increased sedimentation, water temperatures, and non-point pollution force increased water treatment that increases costs to municipalities and customers more for domestic water;
- lowering cost of land development process will NOT result in lower housing costs for buyers and will negatively impact the value of the land they purchase;
- deregulating water quality negatively impacts industries from agriculture to tourism.

**2. Deregulation will reduce quality and quantity of drinking water for Ohioans.**

- Ephemeral streams help filter and recharge groundwater ensuring long-term resource;
- Deregulation would impact 1/3 of all Ohio Streams so it is NOT a small issue;
- Protecting ephemeral streams also helps preserve and protect wildlife and recreational corridors from over development.

**3. Ohio's water quality is Ohio's Past, Present & Future.**

- Ohio from Iroquois word O-Y-O means "Great River";
- Ohio resides in the two most important watersheds in country (Great Lakes & Mississippi River);
- Cuyahoga River fire initiated national regulation for Clean Water Act (Nixon, 1972);
- Ohio's agriculture future demands protection and preservation of natural resources;
- Water access and quality is one reason residents are returning to and investing in Ohio.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,



Jason Kentner, RLA

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