

FEB 01 2022

January 24, 2022

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

Re: HB 175 – Ephemeral Streams Legislation

Dear Chairman Schaffer:

I am a principal representing The EDGE Group, Inc., a planning and landscape architecture firm. Our offices in Columbus and Toledo have provided services to both public and private clients across the State of Ohio since 2003. I am personally in my 25th year of professional practice dedicated to private land development projects.

In a recent letter of opposition to HB 175, dated January 19, 2022, The Ohio Chapter ASLA suggests that the passage will impact 1/3 of Ohio streams, preventing surface water from filtering and infiltrating into the ground due to the elimination of ephemeral features. It is concerning that the evidence presented in this letter is inaccurate, leading to a subjective judgement not based on factual context.

Acting in his official role as Vice President of Legislative Affairs, Doug Boyer signed the letter of opposition. While Mr. Boyer is also an employee of The EDGE Group Inc., we do not support the position taken in opposition to HB 175.

I am writing in support of HB 175 as passed by the House and being considered in the Senate. Passage of this bill ends a burden facing all public and private entities improving land in Ohio. The current state regulations place undue burden not only on land developers, but also entities such as cities, villages, school districts and park districts, affecting the construction of transportation systems, utilities, homes, businesses and manufacturing facilities. I am offering more clarity on water pollution laws, filtration, infiltration and results of stormwater best management practices.

The federal government has established laws and regulations to protect the nation's waters from pollution and degradation. These are administered through

the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. State regulation beyond these proven safe standards is redundant and excessive.

Surface water can infiltrate into the ground anywhere soil composition allows, it is not limited to ephemeral features. Filtration and infiltration of surface water is critical to water quality and groundwater recharge, just as the letter states. However, it is not limited to areas of ephemeral features as you are led to believe. Infiltration of surface water into the soil is dependent on soil composition. This can occur anywhere, on any pervious surface, such as grasslands, woodlands, parks, and lawns. I would suggest that, at least in Central Ohio, little if any infiltration occurs in ephemeral features given the soil is clay based and absorption rates are extremely low.

Local stormwater regulations provide for filtering, infiltration and controlled release rates into Ohio's waterways. Stormwater BMPs are integrated into all site improvements as required. Our experience is that local regulations require improvement to the quantity and quality of water runoff from development. Integrating stormwater BMPs into design solutions creates post-construction run-off that is cleaner and released at a lower rate than the pre-construction conditions.

The passage of this Bill will ease regulatory burdens benefitting all Ohioans. As licensed professionals striving to provide economically, socially and environmentally balanced design solutions, we will continue to be required to incorporate best management practices meeting federal and local standards to keep our waterways clean.

I can be reached via office phone at 614-486-3343 or email at gchillog@edgela.com.

Sincerely,



Gregory S. Chillog, PLA
Principal
The EDGE Group, Inc.