

LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT

This Bill is an outrage. It takes away some half decent protections of public land and virtually mandates the exploitation of state land, including state parks and state forests to be on standby for the use of the oil and gas industry. These state parks and forests are sanctuaries that people need to walk through in order to connect with nature and restore their mind and body. Do you know where poor people take vacations, if they can afford one at all? They take half day vacations in local state parks and forests and then get back to work. These local forests and parks are needed as an outlet for people who simply can't afford to get on a plane and travel to some more exotic location. No one takes a vacation to see an oil well. No one takes a half day off for a hike in the woods to see an oil well or to admire the clear cutting of pipeline right of ways. House members should be ashamed of themselves for yielding to the oil and gas lobby. It is time for our State Senators to set a better example. House Bill 110 should be scrapped in its entirety. Our Senate should set instead, an example of doing something decent for the people of the State of Ohio, dedicate 120-acres of Old Growth Woods at Malabar Farm State Park as a State Nature Preserve with a prohibition against commercial logging ever occurring. I urge our Senators to take a bold stand to protect the recreational value and the soul-restoring value of Ohio's state parks and state forests by protecting them rather than allowing them to be exploited as industrial parks. Turn the tables on the House by also showing you can protect Old Growth Woods at Malabar Farm State Park.

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