



STATE SENATOR  
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**33RD DISTRICT**

**Senate Finance Committee  
Senate Bill 112  
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**Ohio Senate**  
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Good afternoon Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, ranking member Skindell, and members of the Senate Finance Committee. Thank you for allowing me to give sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 112. This bill would create the green infrastructure program, providing \$10 million annually dedicated as a funding source for dam removal and other large-scale green infrastructure projects. This is a small, but meaningful step in the right direction to begin addressing Ohio's infrastructure shortfall.

According to the most recent infrastructure report card by the American Society of civil engineers, our state has 362 dams that are now considered high hazard. There simply is not enough Ohio EPA Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program funding to address all of the dam removal needs. The infrastructure issues in our state will continue to grow if we keep pushing repairs and maintenance off for future generations. Too often we find ourselves having to use more resources later when small problems fester, creating bigger issues.

The Green Infrastructure program will be modeled similar to the very popular Ohio EPA Surface Water Improvement Fund. The funds would not only be available to Federal, State, Municipal, other Local Government Agencies, but also Environmental Non-profit Organizations, and Universities. The grant dollars will be administered by Ohio Public Works Commission and the OEPA will assist in the review and grading of applications. This fund will put Ohioans to work while protecting the lakes and rivers we depend upon for drinking and recreation. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak on SB 112.