

91st House District

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Committees

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Government Oversight

Finance, Agriculture,
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Resources Subcommittee

Insurance

Public Utilities

Bob Peterson
State Representative

Sponsor Testimony
H. B. 426

Chairman Wiggam, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan, and other members of the House State and Local Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 426. This legislation will simply designate the first week of October as Ohio Stormwater Awareness Week.

As we all know, rain is a very positive event that occurs. Our crops grow, our animals can drink, and our lakes and rivers can be refilled. However, as rain collects and flows it also has the potential to carry pollutants that can potentially affect our rivers and streams. The good news is that we all have the power to make a difference by raising awareness and making small, everyday changes to our lifestyles to reduce stormwater runoff and pollution. For example, you could pick up trash throughout your neighborhood or a local park, plant native plants that have deep roots, and properly dispose of yard waste and fall leaves by composting or participation in yard waste pick up or drop off programs. By doing this, we are not just protecting our waterways; we're safeguarding the habitats of wildlife, preserving recreational areas, and ensuring clean drinking water for all Ohioans. During Stormwater Awareness Week, which is honored at a county level currently, but has no set date for the week to occur, it is commonly seen that our local Soil and Water Conservation Districts have multiple different events that promote the education and awareness of this issue.

Stormwater Awareness Week provides an opportunity for all Ohioans to discover how minor efforts can make a big impact. Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony. After my joint sponsor speaks, we would be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Peterson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bob Peterson
State Representative
Ohio's 91st House District