



Morgan County Commissioners' Office  
Information Technologies Office  
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McConnelsville, OH 43756  
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Ohio Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
The Ohio Senate

Honored Committee Members,

My name is Jeffrey Babcock and I am the Information Technologies Director for the Morgan County Commissioners' Office. I also run a small business that does IT consulting and I am a member of the Morgan Amateur Radio Club (MARC). I do a lot of work in the various fields of technology, but I also like to get away from technology when I can. Jesse Owens State Park and the surrounding Recreation Land is the perfect place to do just that.

As a lifelong resident of this area, I have been frequenting the Recreation Area – and what would later become Jesse Owen's State Park – all of my life. When I was younger, I would look for fossils at old coal dig sites. As the land was reclaimed, it became a great place to fish, camp, and set up my telescope for stargazing. While I was working overseas for the federal government, I would often come back to this area during my vacations to relax and forget about the stress of my job overseas. When my wife and her children immigrated to Morgan County from Bangkok, Thailand, Jesse Owens State Park became one of their favorite places to go and enjoy the outdoors.

Unfortunately, as the drug problem continues to increase in our County, safety has become a problem in the park and surrounding areas. Drug users wander the campgrounds and the crimes associated with drug use have increased significantly. It does not feel safe in the park, especially after dark.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources seems to have a good plan to bolster the infrastructure of the park and surrounding area as well as increase the level of security in the park. This would go a long way towards attracting more tourism to the park. The additional tourism to our area would help the small businesses as well as attract investment from larger business. Also, the additional cellular service usage in the park might even get the wireless carriers to increase their service footprint and broadband capabilities in the area, something that is desperately needed throughout Morgan County.

If these funds are cut or scaled back, the potential of Jesse Owens State Park might not be realized. Increasing the security in and around the park is an important first step to attracting further investment and tourism. I urge you to keep Jesse Owens State Park funded in the final version of House Bill 33. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Babcock".

Jeffrey Babcock  
IT Director – Morgan County Commissioners' Office  
Consultant/Owner – Babcock Technology Solutions