

May 6, 2016

Dear Sunset Review Committee members,

I'm writing to you as Chair of the Conneaut Creek Wild and Scenic River Advisory Council. I would like to present to you my personal reasons for opposing the recommendation modifications and restructuring of the Wild and Scenic River Advisory councils program.

1. The Conneaut Creek was officially named a wild and Scenic River in the fall of 2005. Throughout the several months leading up the designation myself along with several other members of the watershed voiced our advocacy of the program and encouraged other citizens to promote the program and relinquish their fears of big government and government control. Today I am forced to interact with these same people and listen to their sarcastic remarks that have been fueled by the proposed restructuring of the of the Wild and Scenic river Advisory program.
2. The Conneaut Creek Advisory Council works very close with the Northeast Ohio River manager. Over the years our council has helped to promote the SQM workshops, involving community members and promoting education within our watershed. Our council also played a role in the construction of three different parking/river access points along the Conneaut Creek. These parking areas have proved to be a huge success! These area are constantly in use not only by our local citizens but mostly by out of town visitors looking to enjoy our beloved watershed.
3. It has always been encouraged to those that attend our quarterly meetings to help be the eyes and ears for the state, notifying the departments of Watercraft and Wildlife of any illegal or suspicious activities taking place on the state owned properties. If local public meetings are suspended I truly believe that this line of communication will subside.
4. It is no secret that our region of the state is an economically depressed area. The tax dollars that are being generated by Sportsman and Tourists enjoying our natural resources will certainly begin to drop off if local support, care and uptake of our watershed is lost. Would you like to take your family on a canoeing or fishing trip where you would have to park your vehicle in a trashed out parking lot?

Sincerely,

Matthew H. Spero

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