



Sunset Review Committee

WITNESS FORM

Today's Date: 05/16/2016

Name: Sylak, Robert Stanley

Address: 11658Maplewood Rd, Chardon, Ohio 44024

Telephone: 440-313-5840

Representing: self

Testifying on following entity: Senate Bill 293

Testifying as: ___ Proponent
 ___ Opponent
 __x__ Interested Party

Are you a registered lobbyist? ___x NO

Are you submitting written testimony? ___x YES

Comments:

The Grand River has been a positive influence on my life and career. It was on the Grand River that my grandfather taught me how to fish, and probably will be the last place I ever fish. I have canoed almost the entire river, camped along its' shores and have owned a family cabin on the river in Rome Township for 26 years. I am a certified naturalist, environmental science education consultant for the College Board, a science teacher, and a landowner with 300 feet of river frontage. The river, as stated before has been a huge part of my families' life and has been a teaching tool for hundreds of my students. My

family has and still lives in Roaming shores, Ohio on a major tributary of the Grand River, Rock Creek.

Although I agree that less government is better, less input by citizens who have direct input on government action is against the principles of our founding fathers. By taking away the input of the Scenic Rivers Advisory Committee members and delegating it to one member from each river, you will effectively silence all of the members' voices and extremely valuable input. Granted we would still meet, but the process of codified input will be gone. It would seem we would be meeting for no reason, because there would be no guarantee that our motions would be heard. Also, as recognized volunteers, we can deduct our mileage on our taxes (a small but pleasing way to reduce our taxes and have input in matters that are dear to our hearts).

I have been a scenic Rivers Advisory Council for almost 20 years. My input as a land owner and scientist has been heard and heeded. To take this no cost to the State input away will be effectively silencing citizen input. Many of us are already certified and checked by other public agencies and need no other searches. For others, it is worth the cost to the state for their free and valuable input.

I urge you to keep the Wild and Scenic River Advisory Panels as is. We could then elect a member from our group to represent us at the State meeting, increasing democracy instead of decreasing it.

Sincerely,

Robert Sylak
11658 Maplewood Rd
Chardon, Ohio
h- 440-285-9604
c- 440-313-5840