



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DEWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

**Sunset Review Committee
Testimony on the Water Advisory Council
Provided by ODNR Chief of Water Resources Rodney Tornes
June 4, 2019**

Good afternoon Chairman Vitale and members of the Sunset Review Committee. My name is Rodney Tornes and I am the Chief of the Division Water Resources within the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present testimony on the Water Advisory Council for your consideration.

Purpose of the Water Advisory Council

The Ohio Water Advisory Council was established by statute in 1984 for the purpose of providing guidance and making recommendations to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Water Resources in matters related to ground water resources evaluation and development, water supply planning, the identification of flood risks and the management of development in flood plains, and the enforcement of Ohio's dam safety laws.

Composition of the Water Advisory Council

The Council consists of seven members with an interest in water management and expertise in areas such as dam safety, surface water, groundwater and flood plain management. Members are appointed by the governor for a two-year term. No more than four of the members can be from the same political party. The terms of all members of the council have expired. Council members receive no compensation for their service other than reimbursement for expenses.

Water Advisory Council Summary and Recommendation

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee thank you for the opportunity to testify today. Historically, the council provided little guidance or recommendations to the Division on policy matters relating to water resources, but rather used their meetings to receive departmental updates from Division staff. Therefore, ODNR recommends that the Ohio Water Advisory Council be sunset by the Sunset Review Committee.

ODNR remains committed to maintaining an open line of communication with our water-related stakeholders to ensure the conservation, protection, and enhancement of Ohio's water resources.