



**Sunset Review Committee
Testimony on the Recreation and Resources Commission
Provided by ODNR Chief of the Division of Parks and Recreation Gary Obermiller
November 30, 2015**

Good afternoon Chairman Brown and members of the Sunset Review Committee. My name is Gary Obermiller and I am the Chief of the Division of Parks and Recreation within the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present testimony on the Recreation and Resources Commission for your consideration.

Purpose of the Recreation and Resources Commission

The Recreation and Resources Commission was established by law in 1963 to provide advice and recommendations to ODNR while also having statutory authority to approve or disapprove changes in the purchase units for the Division of Forestry and the Division of Parks and Recreation.

Composition of the Recreation and Resources Commission

The Commission is comprised of 14 individuals who represent the various recreational and regulatory areas of ODNR. 9 of the 14 members of the Commission also serve as the chairpersons of other ODNR advisory councils, including:

- the chairperson of the wildlife council
- the chairperson of the parks and recreation council
- the chairperson of the waterways safety council
- the chairperson of the Ohio soil and water conservation commission
- the chairperson of the technical advisory council on oil and gas
- the chairperson of the forestry advisory council
- the chairperson of the Ohio natural areas council
- the chairperson of the Ohio water advisory council
- the chairperson of the Ohio geology advisory council

The other 5 members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. However, not more than 3 of those 5 can belong to the same political party. The director of ODNR serves as an ex officio member of the commission, with a voice in its deliberations, but without the power to vote.

Recreation and Resources Commission Summary and Recommendation

ODNR values the work of the Recreation and Resources Commission, but feels that the same level of input can be offered to the Department through a less formalized and bureaucratic process. Therefore, ODNR recommends that the Recreation and Resources Commission be sunset by the Sunset Review Committee. We are committed to maintaining the same level of communication and engagement between the Department and these valuable stakeholders, but in a more efficient manner.

Members of the Committee, thank you again for giving me opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to take any questions that you may have at this time.