



The Friends of Metro Parks Board has approved taking action to oppose HB 8.

- The Ohio State House of Representatives has passed amendment (HB 8) to the existing regulations for oil and gas drilling.
- This bill would give the Ohio Division of Natural Resources the authority to force all subdivisions of the state, including local parks, to join a drilling unit in order to assemble the number of acreage required.
- HB 8 exempts state parks and state nature preserves but not metro parks, county or city parks.
- Metro parks, county and city parks could be added to a drilling unit without consent and without any process.
- In the past, Summit Metro Parks has a history of these requests but has successfully been able to deny them.
- Friends of Metro Parks opposes this legislation because it forces the park district to sell oil, gas, and other minerals in violation of their mission to conserve the natural resources of Summit County for the citizens of Summit County.
- The bill further threatens parkland from nearby drilling impacts and horizontal drilling under parks and it takes the authority to protect parklands out of the hands of the officials who are elected or appointed through due process.
- Citizens pay for these lands and direct operations for their use and protection and do not wish to abdicate authority to interests who may threaten the conservation and recreational values of our parks.
- HB 8 is directly opposed to the public's interest in protecting its established parks.

The Friends of Metro Parks ask for your support to:

1. Contact your Ohio State senators and representatives expressing opposition, telling them metro parks are as important as state parks and should have protection from unwanted interference. **Ask them to support an amendment to exclude metro parks, county and city parks from mandatory pooling in HB8 and any other legislation that may come before the Ohio Senate.**
2. Help us to conduct a public campaign to ask for the support of those who may have similar concerns.

We have presented this proposal to the Summit Metro Parks Commissioners. They oppose HB 8. The Akron City Council and Summit County Council both passed resolutions opposing HB 8.

Summit County residents may go to www.friendsofmetroparks.org then to Take Action and contact their senators and representatives.