

**405 Main Street
PO Box 399
Racine, OH 45771**



**VOICE: 740-949-2296
FAX: 740-306-3039
www.racineohio.com**

J. Scott Hill, Mayor
racinemayor@suddenlinkmail.com

Janet Krider, Fiscal Officer
racineclerk@suddenlinkmail.com

Dear Congressman Wenstrup,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Ohio River Way's proposal to receive federal funding for the installation of 17 ADA compliant kayak access docks and over 40 informational kiosks along the Ohio River. This initiative is not only significant for enhancing accessibility but also for promoting recreational activities and environmental education in our region.

The inclusion of ADA compliant kayak access docks is a crucial step towards ensuring that individuals of all abilities have equal opportunities to enjoy the natural beauty of the Ohio River. By making these stretches of the river accessible to paddlers with varying levels of mobility, we are fostering inclusivity and breaking down barriers that may have previously prevented some individuals from fully experiencing the joys of water recreation.

Furthermore, the implementation of informational kiosks at public boat ramps, including those in the Village of Racine, will serve as invaluable resources for both seasoned paddlers and newcomers alike. These kiosks will provide essential information on boating safety, water quality, local wildlife, tourism attractions, and more, enriching the overall experience for visitors and helping to promote responsible stewardship of our natural resources. Once deployed, these docks and kiosks will not only benefit residents of our community but also attract visitors from across the nation, establishing the Ohio River as one of the most accessible and inviting destinations for paddlers of all abilities.

I urge you to support the Ohio River Way's application for federal funding to realize this transformative project. Investing in accessible recreational infrastructure and environmental education initiatives is not only a wise use of federal resources but also a testament to our commitment to creating vibrant, inclusive communities that celebrate and protect our natural heritage.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued advocacy on behalf of our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Scott Hill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

J. Scott Hill, Mayor
Village of Racine



AMERICAN RIVERS

The Honorable Brad Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup,

I am writing to express American Rivers' strong support for the Ohio River Way's federal funding request to install 17 ADA compliant kayak access docks and more than 40 informational kiosks along the Ohio River. This initiative will significantly enhance accessibility and promote recreational activities and environmental education in the Ohio River basin.

The inclusion of ADA compliant kayak access docks is a crucial step towards ensuring that individuals of all abilities have equal opportunities to enjoy the natural beauty of the Ohio River. By making these stretches of the river accessible to paddlers with varying levels of mobility, we are fostering inclusivity and breaking down barriers that may have previously prevented some individuals from fully experiencing the joys of water recreation.

American Rivers urges you to support the Ohio River Way's application for federal funding to realize this transformative project. We are honored to be able to support this project bringing more people to this important River basin.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued advocacy on behalf of the Ohio River.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heather Taylor-Miesle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather Taylor-Miesle
Senior Vice President, Conservation
American Rivers

Brown County Board of Commissioners

County Administration Building • 800 Mt. Orab Pike, Suite 101 • Georgetown, OH 45121

Phone # (937) 378-3956 • Fax # (937) 378-6324

Daryll R. Gray ~ Tony Applegate ~ Barry L. Woodruff

March 11, 2024

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup:

Brown County would like to be included in the Ohio River Way's multi-community application for portable ADA accessible docks to be used for kayaking and canoeing at the public launch area within the County. These docks would be a great addition to our public boat launches and public use areas in Ripley and Higginsport.

This is a timely and requested addition for the communities situated on the Ohio River from Cincinnati to Gallipolis and will add significantly to the leisure activities while enhancing quality of life through additional recreations opportunities.

Brown County is pleased to support and is appreciative of being included in the Ohio River Way application. We thank you for your efforts in securing the federal dollars for the multi-community.

Sincerely,



Barry L. Woodruff, President



Daryll R. Gray, Member



PO Box 74
Portsmouth, OH 45662
info@connexmoves.org

Connex Executive Board

- Logan Minter – President, (2024-2026)
- Nathan Mullins –Vice President (2022-2024)
- Barb Bradbury-Historian
- Wendi Waugh-Public Information Officer
- Nancy Prose-Treasurer
- Dawn Scott-Secretary (2022-2024)
- Jason Ashworth (2024-2026)
- Toni Dengel (2022-2024)
- Lisa Morgan (2024-2026)
- Teresa Hicks (2024-2026)
- Paul Sheets (2022-2024)
- Terri Stiverson (2024-2026)
- Nathan Welch (2024-2026)
- Ann Yost (2024-2026)

March 11, 2024

United States Representative Brad Wenstrup

Re: Accessible Kayak Dock and Kiosks Along the Ohio River

Dear Representative Wenstrup,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Executive Board of Portsmouth Connex, Inc. We are proposing the establishment of kayak docks and related kiosks along the river stretch from Gallipolis to Cincinnati, Ohio. As a collaborator with the Ohio River Way and the City of Portsmouth, Portsmouth Connex is dedicated to the ongoing development of infrastructure along the Ohio River. We recognize the significance of promoting healthy living and aiding river communities in leveraging the Ohio River for their economic expansion.

Portsmouth Connex, a non-profit 501(3)c organization, is committed to fostering outdoor activities, enhancing tourism, and boosting the economic appeal of the greater Portsmouth, Ohio area. Our advocacy extends to the development of cycling, cycling infrastructure, and outdoor activities in general. Our mission, which is “to inspire activities of play, exercise, and social connections to promote health and wellness”, aligns perfectly with the proposed installation of kayak entry points and informational kiosks along the Ohio River.

The improvement projects outlined in the Portsmouth Ohio Master Plan are primarily focused on the Riverfront. The Ohio River Way’s proposed project supports the Portsmouth Riverfront at two locations: one in downtown Portsmouth and the other within a riverfront Ohio State Park approximately 7-8 miles downstream. The further enhancement of these pivotal structures along the river will stimulate tourism, encourage local river usage, and expand recreational opportunities. This development will also foster the growth of business ventures along the river.

We kindly request your full consideration for funding this project. Portsmouth Connex is in full support of this proposal. Should you need further information or have any queries, please feel free to reach out to any board member at info@connexmoves.org or contact me directly at 740-356-7557.

Sincerely,

Wendi Waugh, Connex Public Information Officer

PAT O'CALLAGHAN, JR., President · DANIEL E. BETTS, Director

March 14, 2024

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman, Wenstrup,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the funding application by the Ohio River Way to implement ADA compliant docks in our community. The addition of ADA accessibility to public areas is not only essential but also aligns with our shared values of inclusivity and equal access to recreational opportunities for all individuals.

As a member of this vibrant community, I understand the significance of creating spaces that are accessible to everyone, regardless of their physical abilities. The introduction of ADA compliant docks will not only enhance the overall accessibility of our public areas but also serve as a testament to our commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where everyone can participate and enjoy recreational activities without barriers.

The Cincinnati Recreation Commission wholeheartedly endorses the Ohio Rives Way application and initiative to make our public areas more accessible through the installation of ADA compliant docks. This project not only addresses a pressing need within our community but also exemplifies our collective efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

Sincerely,



Daniel E. Betts

Director, Cincinnati Recreation Commission





March 15, 2024

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup:

I am writing to show Clermont County's for the Ohio River Way's multi-community application for up to 17 ADA compliant kayak access docks and 40+ informational kiosks to be deployed at public boat ramps from Hamilton County to Gallia County along the Ohio River.

This is a timely and welcome addition for the communities situated on the Ohio River from Cincinnati to Gallipolis, and will add significantly to the leisure activities in the area, while enhancing the quality of life for the residents through additional recreational opportunities.

The Board of Commissioners is highly supportive of this effort and are also appreciative of being included in the Ohio River Way application. We thank you for your efforts in securing the federal funding for the multi-community action!

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO

David L. Painter, President

Claire B. Corcoran, Vice President

Bonnie J. Batchler, Member

IN RE: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS...EXECUTION OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE OHIO RIVER WAY'S "ACCESS FOR ALL" MULTI-COMMUNITY APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL FUNDING...24-0313-002...EXECUTED

Moved by Commissioner Corcoran, seconded by Commissioner Batchler, that the Board of County Commissioners approve the following recommendation:

Recommendation that the Board of County Commissioners execute a Letter of Support for the Ohio River Way's "Access For All" Multi-Community Application for federal funding to support 17 ADA compliant Kayak Access docks and over 40 informational kiosks at public boat ramps from Hamilton County to Galia County along the Ohio River. This will include docks and kiosks for Clermont County River communities, including New Richmond, Moscow, Chilo, and Neville.

Upon roll call on the foregoing motion, the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Corcoran, Yes; Commissioner Batchler, Yes; Commissioner Painter, Yes.



2156 US Highway 50
Batavia, OH 45103
513-732-2977
ParkDistrict@clermontcountyohio.gov

March 8, 2024

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup:

The Clermont County Park District is pleased to be included in Ohio River Way's multi-community application for portable ADA accessible docks to be used for kayaking and canoeing Along the Ohio River from Gallipolis to Cincinnati.

This will be a great addition to our Chilo Lock 34 Park on the Ohio River that features an Ohio River Museum, accessible playground, picnic shelters, restrooms, state nature preserve, and overnight youth camping opportunities. The park also features a two lane boat ramp and 200 feet of courtesy dock. The addition of the ADA accessible docks will provide access for everyone to paddle in the undeveloped backwater area of Crooked Run Nature Preserve.

These docks will be added to our existing docks and will allow for wheelchair access. We understand that if the application is approved the project would be 100% funded. The Park District agrees to maintain the access docks and properly store and care for the docks during the winter months.

The Clermont County Park District supports the Ohio River Way application and its efforts to enhance the quality life and recreational opportunities throughout the Ohio River Valley. We thank you for efforts in securing funding for this multi community project!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Torbeck".

Josh Torbeck
Executive Director



**Greater Lawrence County Area
Convention and Visitors Bureau**

www.visitlawrenceohio.com

P.O. Box 488

South Point, Ohio 45680-0488

740-377-4550 740-894-3838

Fax: 740-377-2091

March 11, 2024

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup:

The Lawrence County Convention and Visitors Bureau would appreciate being included in the Ohio River Way's multi-community application for portable ADA accessible docks to be used for kayaking and canoeing. This would be a great addition to Lawrence County's work to bring their riverfronts alive for everyone.

Last summer, Lawrence County was accepted after an application to participate in the Recreation Economies for Rural Communities (RERC) program that identified assets that the county could use assistance to increase tourism dollars. We were one of twenty-five communities nationwide chosen for this program. Riverfront accessibility was an area in which we are set up to increase activity. By receiving this wheelchair accessible dock or docks that are 100% funded would be a fantastic start to improve Lawrence County.

With our tri-state area not having ADA accessible docks like this, we could improve the quality of life not only in our county, but our region. Recreational tourism is on the rise in Lawrence County, and we only see it improving not only with visitors but with our economy.

The Lawrence County CVB appreciates the efforts to assist our communities with federal dollars and we are thankful that we have this opportunity in our communities.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marty Conley".

Marty Conley
Lawrence County CVB Director



March 12, 2024

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup:

Great Parks of Hamilton County is pleased to support the Ohio River Way's multi-community application for portable ADA-accessible docks to be used for kayak and canoe access at public launch areas along the Ohio River. If long-term funding becomes available in alignment with the priorities of our master plan, Great Parks may consider a feasibility study to determine if one of these facilities could be located on one of our riverfront properties.

The estimated size of the dock is 8 feet by 20 feet with durability for wheelchair access. As I understand this grant application, if approved, the dock would be 100% funded. The Ohio River Way would work with the public entities at each location to maintain the dock for public use during paddling season and to properly store and care for it during the off season and during flood events.

This is a timely and requested addition for the communities situated on the Ohio River from Cincinnati to Gallipolis, and it will add significantly to the leisure activities while enhancing quality of life through additional recreational opportunities.

We thank you for your efforts in securing the federal dollars for this multi-community effort!

Sincerely,

Todd Palmeter
Chief Executive Officer
Great Parks of Hamilton County

Board of Park Commissioners

William Burwinkel • Caren Laverty • Scott Schuster • Marcus Thompson • Melissa Wegman • Todd Palmeter, CEO
10245 Winton Road • Cincinnati, OH 45231 • greatparks.org



AFTAB PUREVAL

City of Cincinnati, Office of the Mayor

March 25, 2024

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Wenstrup,

I write to express my strong support for the application, supported by regional advocates and civic leaders alike, for the Fiscal Year 2025 Congressionally Directed Spending request for the Ohio River Way “Access for All” project. ADA compliant docks along this stretch of the Ohio River will improve accessibility, regional connectivity, and collective pride in this incredible public asset.

For communities throughout Southern Ohio, the Ohio River is a cherished feature of our natural ecosystem. Its beauty and environmental significance help attract folks to the region, help boost our local economy, and help support our climate-resilience. As we look ahead to the future, there are major social benefits to maintaining and improving the Ohio River as an enjoyable public space.

Cincinnati is proud to be home to a nationally renowned parks system. We have made consistent, strategic investments in ensuring that residents of all zip codes and income levels have access to great public spaces and fun, inclusive outdoor activities. Strengthening the Ohio River’s accessibility through the “Access for All” project will further this goal, giving even more residents an option to enjoy all our region has to offer.

I thank you for your consideration of this strong, collaborative application, and I am available for any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Aftab Pureval
Mayor, City of Cincinnati



March 11, 2024

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup 2335
Rayburn House Office Building Washington
D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup:

The Village of New Richmond would very much like to be included in the Ohio River Way's multi-community application for portable ADA accessible docks to be used for kayak and canoeing at the public launch area within the Village. This would be a great addition to our public boat launch and public use area!

The estimated size of the dock is 8 feet by 20 feet with durability for wheelchair access. As I understand this grant application, if approved, would be 100% funded. The Village does agree to and pledges to maintain the access docks and to properly store and care for during the winter months.

This is a timely and requested addition for the communities situated on the Ohio River from Cincinnati to New Richmond and will add significantly to the leisure activities while enhancing quality of life through additional recreational opportunities.

New Richmond is pleased to support and is also appreciative of being included in the Ohio River Way application. The Village thanks you for your efforts in securing the federal dollars for this multi-community!

Thank you!

Glenn Ewing

Village of New Richmond Mayor

+++++

Village Council

Councilperson Larry Prues Councilperson Dennis Dalton Councilperson Mary Allen
Councilperson Jon Tharpe Councilperson Richard Feldkamp Councilperson Ryan Woodruff
Interim Village Administrator Bob Lindhorst

102 Willow Street
New Richmond, OH 45157
513-553-4146 X 11
www.newrichmond.org



March 12, 2024

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C., 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup:

I trust that you are doing well. I am sorry that you have announced your retirement. However, as you know, you only get so much time with a young family. That time is without equal. You made the right decision for the right reason.

I am writing on an important matter. As CEO of Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI), I am writing in support of the Ohio River Way's multi-community application for portable ADA accessible docks and informational kiosks at access points along the river, from Hamilton County to Gallia County. Both areas will promote safety and access to recreation on the Ohio River for all users.

These ADA compliant docks, about 8 feet by 20 feet and durable for wheelchair access, make it easier for those with mobility challenges to safely launch and recover their paddle craft from the water. As a bonus these docks do the same for paddlers of all abilities.

Additionally, having them spread across 200 miles of the Ohio River will make this one of the longest ADA accessible water trails in the country. This will communicate to the world that the Ohio River is available and accessible to everyone and for all activities.

Likewise, the informational kiosks will provide detailed information on how to safely recreate on the Ohio River; details of local events along the river; and provide a QR code to link users to the award-winning Ohio River Way Digital Guide. The guide was developed by OKI in partnership with the Ohio River Way. The guide allows users to see where they are on the river, points of interest around them, and real-time locations of commercial traffic on the water.

OKI is pleased to support the Ohio River Way application. Foremost in our mission is to help build an infrastructure and transportation system that works for all!

We thank you for your efforts in securing the federal dollars for this multi-community effort.

I sincerely appreciate your fair and prudent consideration of this application. OKI is unwavering in its confidence for the Ohio River Way and the other local partners in seeing this project to its successful completion, should the application receive a grant award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark R. Policinski".

Mark R. Policinski
CEO

Judge/Executive Gary W. Moore
President

Mark R. Policinski
CEO

720 E. Pete Rose Way, Suite 420 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 | Phone: 513.621.6300 | Fax: 513.621.9325 | www.oki.org
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Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DeWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

Glen Cobb, Chief
Division of Parks and Watercraft
2045 Morse Rd, Building A-3
Columbus, Ohio 43229

March 15, 2024

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup
2355 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup:

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) is very interested in being included in the Ohio River Way's multi-community application for ADA accessible docks which will be used for kayaking and canoeing at our Shawnee State Park Marina, located on the Ohio River. ODNR is dedicated to improving accessibility at Ohio's state parks. The addition of an ADA accessible dock at the Shawnee Marina will provide an opportunity for people of all abilities to enjoy the river.

It is our understanding that, if approved, this will be 100% funded and ODNR will only be responsible for maintaining public access to this dock and providing proper maintenance and storage during the winter months.

Recently, the ODNR has invested in numerous improvements to Shawnee State Park with the development of the new Ohio River Campground. The addition of this ADA accessible dock to the marina will significantly increase leisure activities and improve accessibility to these activities.

We fully support the Ohio River Way in their pursuit of this funding and are excited to be included in the application. We thank you for your efforts to secure federal dollars for this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glen Cobb".

GLEN COBB
Chief



Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission

5735 Kellogg Avenue Cincinnati, Ohio 45230

Telephone: (513) 231-7719

Fax: (513) 231-7761

Email: ashumard@orsanco.org

SINCE 1948
Improving Water Quality in the
Ohio River for 75 Years

March 11, 2024

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup,

The Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) writes this letter in support of the Ohio River Way's project to install ADA compliant kayak access docks and informational kiosks at public boat ramps from Hamilton County to Galia County along the Ohio River.

ORSANCO is an interstate compact agency with authority to operate water quality abatement and control programs along the Ohio River and its tributaries for eight member states within the Ohio River watershed. ORSANCO is relied upon to maintain the waters of the basin in a satisfactory sanitary condition available for safe and satisfactory use as public and industrial water supplies after reasonable treatment, suitable for recreation purposes and capable of maintaining fish and other aquatic life inclusive of all populations within the Ohio River Basin. Through this project partnership, ORSANCO can provide water quality and fish consumption data for public interaction at each kiosks. ORSANCO believes improving access to data and recreational opportunities is key to encouraging stewardship and improving overall quality of life.

ORSANCO is a proud partner of the Ohio River Way. Through their widespread partnerships, they have successfully developed innovative solutions for connecting more people with the Ohio River. Allowing communities, and many people who never had the opportunity before, to experience it as a vital resource and economic asset. Securing federal funding for this project will help empower citizens with better access to recreational opportunities and water quality information. We thank you for doing your part to ensure the Ohio River remains a valuable resource for all.

Sincerely,

Richard Harrison
Executive Director



City of Portsmouth

Office of the City Manager

728 Second Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662



March 11, 2024

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup:

The City of Portsmouth is offering this letter as a show of support to the Ohio River Way's multi-community application for portable ADA accessible docks for kayaking and canoeing. The City currently has an access at the confluence of the Scioto and Ohio Rivers that was designed for these types of vessels and this project could enhance the area greatly.

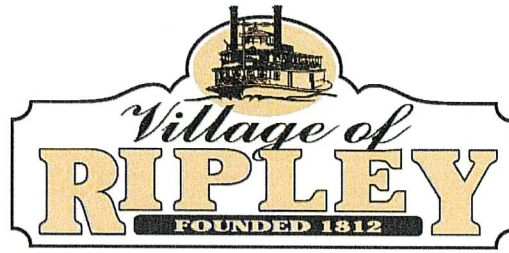
It is the City's understanding that the proposed docks are 8 feet by 20 feet and are to be ADA compliant. It is also agreed that if funded the City of Portsmouth will maintain access to the dock and properly store and care for the equipment during the off-season.

This project involves communities extending from Cincinnati to Gallipolis and is a great way to enhance the riverfront activities and improve quality of life through recreational opportunities and we as a City are supportive of the Ohio River Way for including us in the project.

Sincerely,

Sam Sutherland, City Manager

Council
Charles Poole
Kathy Lewis
Nicole Hedges



Council
Tiffany Regenstein
Alvin Wallace
Scott Eagan

Mayor - Travis Arnett
Administrator - Wayne Gates

March 15, 2024

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup,

The Village of Ripley would very much like to be included in the Ohio River Way's multi-community application for portable ADA accessible docks to be used for kayaking and canoeing at the village's public dock.

The village is currently in the process of completing a \$2.6 million dollar dock project on the Ohio River and this application from the Ohio River Way would offer even more recreational opportunities and options to residents and visitors to the village. The village will commit to maintaining the additional dock if approved.

The Village of Ripley is also excited to learn about the informational kiosks that would be included in the project. This will allow us to share information about our rich Underground Railroad history with visitors and allow us to pursue a regional tourism strategy to promote economic development.

We thank you and your staff for your continued support of our village during your tenure in office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Gates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wayne Gates
Village Administrator

GREG LANDSMAN
1ST DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

1432 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3501
(202) 225-2216

961 E. McMILLAN ST. #C-1
CINCINNATI, OH 45206
(513) 810-7988

11 S. BROADWAY ST. #301
LEBANON, OH 45036
(513) 409-6188

March 11, 2024

The Honorable Brad Wenstrup
Representative
2335 Rayburn
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for Ohio River Way Application for FY25 Community Project Funding

Dear Representative Wenstrup:

I write to offer my support for an application for Fiscal Year 2025 Community Project Funding being submitted by Ohio River Way.

I understand Ohio River Way will include in its application a request for funding for 17 ADA-compliant Kayak Access Docks and around 40 Information Kiosks that would be installed at boat ramps on the Ohio River from North Bend, Ohio to Gallipolis, Ohio – including in portions of Hamilton County that fall within Ohio's First Congressional District. I fully support the funding for this request, and stand ready to assist on this matter in any way that I can.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to our office if we can be helpful in any way.

Sincerely,



Congressman Greg Landsman



Portsmouth-Scioto County Visitors Bureau
342 Second Street
Portsmouth, OH 45662
www.explorescioto.com

Phone: 740-353-1116
Fax: 740-353-5824
Email: director@explorescioto.com
Social Media: [explorescioto](https://www.explorescioto.com)

March 14, 2024

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup:

As an advocate for travel and tourism of Portsmouth and Scioto County and as a resident of Portsmouth and Scioto County, we are in support of the multi-community application for portable ADA accessible docks and informational kiosks. These would be great additions to public boat launches and public use areas along the Ohio River!

The City of Portsmouth is unique in the fact that it sits at the confluence of the Scioto and Ohio Rivers. Both rivers have been highly invested in already by the City and County officials with the installation of kayak launch points as well as further plans to develop their areas. We know from experience that water levels on the Scioto and the Ohio can fluctuate quickly with heavy rains. So we look forward to working with the Ohio River Way and the company that will construct these docks to better understand exactly how they will handle quick changes in river conditions. However, we would very much appreciate the support in the funding and installation of informational kiosks at our public launch areas. These will serve the public well as boaters, kayakers, canoers, and visitors can be welcomed and oriented into the Portsmouth-Scioto County area. As the Director of the Portsmouth-Scioto County Visitors Bureau, I feel that the informational kiosks would greatly benefit our incoming visitors who are looking to recreate along our riverways.

This is a timely and requested addition for the communities situated on the Ohio River from Cincinnati to Portsmouth and will add significantly to the leisure activities while enhancing quality of life through additional recreational opportunities.

The Portsmouth-Scioto County Visitors Bureau is pleased to support and is also appreciative of being included in the Ohio River Way application. We thank you for your efforts in securing the federal dollars for this multi-community!

Yours Sincerely,

Nate Welch, Executive Director
Portsmouth-Scioto County Visitors Bureau

Scioto County

OFFICE OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

BRYAN DAVIS, Chairman
SCOTTIE POWELL
CATHY COLEMAN



Room 310, Courthouse
602 Seventh Street
PORTSMOUTH, OH 45662

AMANDA HOWARD, Clerk
Amanda.howard@sciotocounty.net

Telephone (740) 355-5313
Fax (740) 353-7358

March 14, 2024

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup:

Scioto County would love to be included in the Ohio River Way's multi-community application for portable ADA accessible docks to be used for kayak and canoeing at our new launch pad that is located in Lucasville. This would be a great addition to our launch pad and give more opportunity to those with disabilities to be able to enjoy our beautiful waterways as many others do.

When the pandemic shut down many things in the world many people chose to get outdoors and get back to enjoying the beautiful opportunities that we have in our own backyards. This inspired us to make even more reasons for the people in our community to stay active and continue to enjoy what we have been blessed with and that is why we decided to build our launch pad.

This is the first time ever to have public access on the Scioto River, and additional access on the Ohio River. With these new launches we support the effort to expand these recreational opportunities with informational kiosks and additional access to people with mobility issues.

Sincerely,

Scioto County Commissioners



Bryan Davis, Chairman



Scottie Powell, Vice Chairman



Cathy Coleman, Commissioner



Ohio Senate
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: (614) 466-8156
Wilkin@ohiosenate.gov

Committee
Small Business & Economic Opportunity
- *Vice Chair*
Agriculture & Natural Resources
Energy & Public Utilities
Veterans & Public Safety

SHANE WILKIN
State Senator
17th Senate District

March 18, 2024

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C., 20515

RE: Support for Ohio River Way's Funding Application to Make Ohio River More Accessible

Dear Congressman Wenstrup,

As state senator of Ohio's 17th Senate District, I write this letter in full support of the Ohio River Way's funding application to make the Ohio River, from Cincinnati to Gallipolis, the most accessible stretch of any river in America for people with all abilities, but especially for those with mobility changes.

Specifically, it is my understanding that these funds would be used to install ADA compliant kayak/canoe access docks which will increase access for people of all abilities and ages to safely enter and exit a canoe or kayak. In addition, this funding would be utilized to install informational kiosks at public boat ramps from Hamilton County to Gallia County along the Ohio River. As state senator, I represent 9.5 counties, including Lawrence and Gallia, which are located along the river and will directly benefit from the addition of these ADA compliant docks and the informational kiosks. However, the benefit of these ADA compliant access docks and information kiosks will spread much further into not only my district but also Ohio as a whole.

Moreover, people of all abilities from all across Ohio and bordering states will travel to utilize the ADA compliant access docks, which will help grow the outdoor recreation economy in Ohio River communities. In addition, these amenities will improve the public and mental health of

Ohio residents and visitors alike by providing safe recreational opportunities for those of all abilities. Finally, the installation of informational kiosks will provide thousands of people who fish, boat, paddle, jet ski, etc. with critical information about boating safety, real time river and water quality conditions, fish and wildlife of the Ohio River Valley, local history, culture, tourism, and more.

In closing, I fully support Ohio River Way's funding application and strongly request your support in securing federal dollars for ADA compliant kayak/canoe access docks and informational kiosks to make the Ohio River, from Hamilton County to Gallia County, the most accessible stretch of river in the United States. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at wilkin@ohiosenate.gov.

Sincerely,



Shane Wilkin
Ohio State Senator
17th Senate District



Ohio Senate

Senate Building
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: (614)466-8082
Fax: (614) 466-8261
johnson@ohiosenate.gov

Terry Johnson

State Senator
14th District

April 5, 2023

The Honorable Brad Wenstrup
U.S. House of Representatives
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup,

Community revitalization for Appalachian Ohio is a priority we each share. That is why I enthusiastically write in support of Ohio River Way's ambitious recreational renovations proposal.

Frist, I want to thank you for your unwavering commitment to growth in Southern Ohio. As the State Senator for the 14th Ohio Senate District—which extends along much of the Ohio River—I am acutely aware of the impact that investments into this region can have on our communities and economy. Ohio River Way is taking a major initiative to make the Ohio River the most accessible stretch of any river in the United States for people of all abilities.

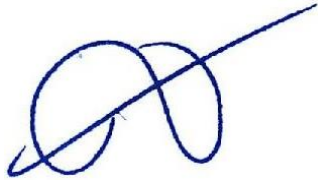
Ohio River Way's multi-community application for implementing ADA accessible docks to be used for kayaking and canoeing across 18 different villages and cities will strengthen both tourism and recreation. Additionally, the installation of over 40 informational kiosks greatly complements these efforts. This project is a prime issue for Southern Ohio as our region is far above the state average for those suffering with mobility disabilities, 11% of my counties' residents compared to 8.5% statewide. The current docks in the Ohio River create a safety hazard for those with mobility disabilities, as most injuries occur during getting in and out of kayaks and canoes.

This proposal is endorsed by each county's chamber of commerce and tourism boards, the ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft, as well as many of the localities themselves. Completion of this project will remove significant physical barriers, making the Ohio River safe to enter and exit for people of all ages and abilities. The deployment of ADA compliant kayak and canoe access docks

will also enable many more people to experience the natural beauty of Ohio and its tributaries. These amenities will improve both public and mental health of Ohio's residents and visitors alike, while also growing the outdoor recreation economy for Ohio River communities.

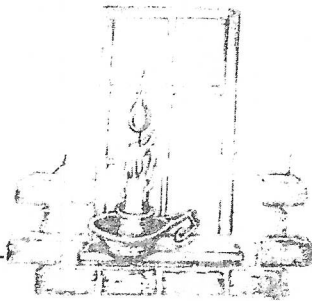
I highly recommend Ohio River Way's proposal and thank you for your vital support of this important project. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. My office can be reached at 614-466-8082 or Johnson@ohiosenate.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Terry Johnson
State Senator
14th District

30 Wells Street
P.O. Box 93
Moscow, Ohio 45153



Administration (513) 553-6870
Community Center (513) 553-4200

Village of Moscow

March 14, 2024

The Honorable Brad Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup

The Village of Moscow would like to express our support for the Ohio River Way's ADA accessible Kayak and Canoe ramp program . This would be a great and welcome addition to our boat dock area . Many people use our location for launching due to our location on the river . We are just up river from Point Pleasant (President Grants birthplace) and several creeks to explore .

As Kayakers ourselves my wife and I fully appreciate the difficulty of getting in and out of the boat itself . The older we get the more difficult it becomes . These launches would make it much easier and encourage people to use the river for clean healthy recreation.

Thank you for your considerations and For all you have done in service for our country.

God bless
Alan Ausman

Village of Moscow, Administrator



Dear Congressman Wenstrup,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Ohio River Way's proposal to receive federal funding for the installation of 17 ADA compliant kayak access docks and over 40 informational kiosks along the Ohio River. This initiative is not only significant for enhancing accessibility but also for promoting recreational activities and environmental education in our region.

The inclusion of ADA compliant kayak access docks is a crucial step towards ensuring that individuals of all abilities have equal opportunities to enjoy the natural beauty of the Ohio River. By making these stretches of the river accessible to paddlers with varying levels of mobility, we are fostering inclusivity and breaking down barriers that may have previously prevented some individuals from fully experiencing the joys of water recreation.

Furthermore, the implementation of informational kiosks at public boat ramps, including those in Brown County such as Ripley and Higginsport, will serve as invaluable resources for both seasoned paddlers and newcomers alike. These kiosks will provide essential information on boating safety, water quality, local wildlife, tourism attractions, and more, enriching the overall experience for visitors and helping to promote responsible stewardship of our natural resources. Once deployed, these docks and kiosks will not only benefit residents of our communities but also attract visitors from across the nation, establishing the Ohio River as one of the most accessible and inviting destinations for paddlers of all abilities.

I urge you to support the Ohio River Way's application for federal funding to realize this transformative project. Investing in accessible recreational infrastructure and environmental education initiatives is not only a wise use of federal resources but also a testament to our commitment to creating vibrant, inclusive communities that celebrate and protect our natural heritage.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued advocacy on behalf of our region.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Moran

President / CEO

Brown County Chamber of Commerce



March 13, 2024

Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office District
Washington D.C. 20515

Congressman Wenstrup,

The Adams County Travel & Visitors Bureau would also like to be included in the Ohio River Way's multi-community application for ADA accessible kayak & canoe launches on Ohio Brush Creek at the Corp. of Engineers Brush Creek boat ramp located at 17085 U.S. 52, Manchester.

Between the Adams County Travel & Visitors Bureau and The Nature Conservancy, four public canoe/kayak (and boat) launches have been built in the upper brush creek watershed. An ADA kayak launch at the mouth of Ohio Brush Creek is a natural spot for this dock with "just around the bend" access to the Ohio River and Brush Creek Island, or upstream to the calm waters of the Brush Creek pool would be an ideal location for folks with certain disabilities. A few years back, the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources placed an ADA compliant kayak launch at Adams Lake State Park.

The Adams County Travel & Visitors Bureau hopes you'll consider the Ohio River Way's grant application as it would encourage tourism to one of Adams County relished natural resources.

Respectfully,

Tom Cross

Exec. Director
Adams County Travel & Visitors Bureau
509 E Main PO 577
West Union, OH 45693
937.544.5639 877.232.6764
tomcross@adamscountytravel.org
www.adamscountytravel.org





March 13, 2024

Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office District
Washington D.C. 20515

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Respectfully,

Tom Cross

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*Keepers of the Story ~ Stewards of the TrailSM
We preserve, promote and teach the diverse heritage of Lewis and Clark for the benefit of all people*

March 14, 2024

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup,

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation fully endorses the Ohio River Way's endeavor to transform the Ohio River, spanning from Cincinnati to Gallipolis, into the most accessible waterway in America, particularly for individuals facing mobility challenges.

We understand the project aims to finance the acquisition and installment of up to 18 ADA compliant kayak/canoe access docks at key public boat ramps along the Cincinnati to Gallipolis route. Moreover, it plans to deploy informational kiosks at each boat ramp, offering insights on boating safety, tourism, water quality, wildlife, and more.

Furthermore, our Foundation promotes the integration of historical interpretation components that honor Meriwether Lewis's expedition via keelboat along the Ohio River, which marked the commencement of the historic Corps of Discovery in 1803. This initiative could also serve to commemorate the Eastern Legacy of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

At the core of our mission lies the promotion of responsible stewardship toward cultural, historical, and natural resources, alongside the enrichment of local economies through authentic storytelling at trail destinations. In collaboration with community input, our initiatives aim to nurture stewardship, enrichment, and promotion of these destinations. Presently, our endeavors are empowering small businesses, tribal tourism ventures, and historically significant landmarks. We aspire to deepen travelers' comprehension of American history during the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery Expedition era and its enduring influence.

We express gratitude for the opportunity to endorse this pivotal project, which aims to democratize recreational opportunities for all. Should you require further details about our Foundation and its commitment to preserving, promoting, and educating on the diverse heritage of Lewis and Clark for the betterment of society, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Respectfully

Richard A. Hunt
Executive Director



1223 Jefferson Avenue, Reading, OH 45215 - 513-563-8800 - info@themillcreekalliance.org

March 14, 2024

Dear Congressman Wenstrup,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Ohio River Way's proposal to receive federal funding for the installation of 17 ADA compliant kayak access docks and over 40 informational kiosks along the Ohio River. This initiative is not only significant for enhancing accessibility but also for promoting recreational activities and environmental education in our region.

The inclusion of ADA compliant kayak access docks is a crucial step towards ensuring that individuals of all abilities have equal opportunities to enjoy the natural beauty of Mill Creek and the Ohio River. By making these stretches of the river accessible to paddlers with varying levels of mobility, we are fostering inclusivity and breaking down barriers that may have previously prevented some individuals from fully experiencing the joys of water recreation.

Furthermore, the implementation of informational kiosks at public boat ramps, including at Gest Street in Cincinnati, will serve as invaluable resources for both seasoned paddlers and newcomers alike. These kiosks will provide essential information on boating safety, water quality, local wildlife, tourism attractions, and more, enriching the overall experience for visitors and helping to promote responsible stewardship of our natural resources. The Gest Street ramp will not only provide access for the residents of our underserved neighborhoods in the Lower Mill Creek Watershed, but also will attract visitors and paddlers from the entire region and nation. This will establish the Ohio River as one of the most accessible and inviting destinations for paddlers of all abilities.

I urge you to support the Ohio River Way's application for federal funding to realize this transformative project. Investing in accessible recreational infrastructure and environmental education initiatives is not only a wise use of federal resources but also a testament to our commitment to creating vibrant, inclusive communities that celebrate and protect our natural heritage.



1223 Jefferson Avenue, Reading, OH 45215 - 513-563-8800 - info@themillcreekalliance.org

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued advocacy on behalf of our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "David J. Schmitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

David Schmitt, Executive Director
Mill Creek Alliance



March 13, 2024

Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office District
Washington D.C. 20515

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Keepers of the Story ~ Stewards of the TrailSM
We preserve, promote and teach the diverse heritage of Lewis and Clark for the benefit of all people

March 14, 2024

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2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

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Respectfully

Richard A. Hunt
Executive Director



1223 Jefferson Avenue, Reading, OH 45215 - 513-563-8800 - info@themillcreekalliance.org

March 14, 2024

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David Schmitt, Executive Director
Mill Creek Alliance



River City Paddle Sports
The Community Boat House
1321 River Road
Louisville, KY 40202
www.rivercitypaddlesports.org
(Waterfront Park Yellow Parking Lot)

March 11, 2024

Subject: Letter of Support for Ohio River Recreation Enhancement Project

The Honorable Brad Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Wenstrup,

I am writing to express my support and admiration for your efforts to enhance recreational opportunities along the Ohio River. Though I am not a constituent of your district or even your state, my role as the Chair of the Board for River City Paddle Sports in Louisville, Kentucky, and my tenure as the Vice Chair of the Ohio River Way have given me a unique perspective on the importance of your work.

Your leadership in Ohio serves as a shining example to all the states that border our shared treasure, the Ohio River. The project to install ADA compliant kayak access docks and informational kiosks along the river is particularly inspiring. Not only does it promise to make the Ohio River one of the most accessible for paddlers of all abilities, but it also sets a benchmark for community engagement and environmental education. The addition of over 40 National Park Service style kiosks, equipped with comprehensive information about boating safety, water quality, local wildlife, and tourism, is an excellent initiative. These kiosks will not only educate and inform river users and residents but also contribute significantly to the safety and enjoyment of the river.

This initiative aligns perfectly with the values and goals of both River City Paddle Sports and the Ohio River Way. We are excited about the prospect of making the Ohio River a model for other rivers across the nation in terms of accessibility and educational resources.

Thank you for your dedication to this important cause. Your efforts not only benefit the communities along the Ohio River but also set an example for environmental stewardship and community engagement nationwide.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Wicks
[River City Paddle Sports](http://www.rivercitypaddlesports.org), Board Chair
[Ohio River Way](http://www.ohioriverway.org), Board Vice Chair
502-671-3595
Dwicks1@gmail.com

Mailing address: River City Paddle Sports, 6215 Deep Creek Ct. Prospect, KY 40059
Treasurer: River City Paddle Sports, 3711 Longview Rd. Louisville, KY 40299



Village of North Bend

21 Taylor Avenue
P.O. Box 537
North Bend, Ohio 45052
(513) 941-0610

March 10, 2024

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup:

The Village of North Bend would very much like to be included in the Ohio River Way's multi-community application for portable ADA accessible docks to be used for kayak and canoeing at the soon to be William Henry Harrison Riverfront Park here in North Bend. We are excited to be the newest member of the Ohio River Way and the development of our Riverfront Park will be residents from all over the Tri-State and beyond to experience the history and recreation of the area.

We understand that this grant application, if approved is 100% funded. However, the Village of North Bend has already raised more than \$900,000 in external funds and invested more than \$90,000 of its own funds to help make this park a reality. Our initial work on the park will be completed in May/June 2024 and this new dock will fit perfectly into our master plan.

This is a timely and requested addition for the communities situated on the Ohio River from Gallipolis to North Bend and will add significantly to the recreational activities for those that long to enjoy the beautiful Ohio River.

The Village of North Bend is pleased to support and is greatly appreciative of being included in the Ohio River Way application. We thank you for your efforts and willingness to help secure the federal dollars for the multi-community effort.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Sammons".

Doug Sammons
Mayor



The Village of Aberdeen

1142 US 52

Aberdeen, OH 45101

Ph: 937-795-2212 Fx: 937-795-2421

Mayor, William Eastwood * Administrative Assistant, Judy Alles * Chief of Police, David Benjamin, Village Administrator, Logan Bolar

March 11, 2024

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup
2335 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wenstrup:

The Village of Aberdeen would very much like to be included in the Ohio River Way's multi-community application for portable ADA accessible docks to be used for kayaking and canoeing at the public launch area within the City. This would be a great addition to our public boat launch and public use park area!

The estimated size of the dock is 8 feet by 20 feet with durability for wheelchair access. As we understand this grant application, if approved, would be 100% funded. The Village does agree to and pledges to maintain the access docks and to properly store and care for during the winter months as we do for our current docks we utilize.

This is a timely and requested addition for the communities situated on the Ohio River from Cincinnati to The Village of Aberdeen, and will add significantly to the leisure activities while enhancing quality of life through additional recreational opportunities.

The Village of Aberdeen is pleased to support and is also appreciative of being included in the Ohio River Way application. We thank you for your efforts in securing the federal dollars for this multi-community!

Yours Sincerely,

Logan A. Bolar
Aberdeen Village Administrator