



REPRESENTATIVE
TRISTAN WILLIAM RADER
SERVING OHIO'S 13th STATE HOUSE DISTRICT

February 10, 2026

Ohio Oil and Gas Land Management Commission

Re: Nomination 26-DNR-0001 and Nomination 26-DNR-0002

I am writing to strongly oppose **Nomination 26-DNR-0001** and **Nomination 26-DNR-0002**, which would allow oil and gas leasing and fracking at **Egypt Valley Wildlife Area**.

Egypt Valley is one of Ohio's largest and most treasured wildlife areas. For decades, locals have used these public lands to hunt, fish, birdwatch, and enjoy Ohio's natural beauty. Allowing fracking here would bring heavy industrial traffic, noise, air pollution, and methane leaks into a place that is meant to be protected.

Egypt Valley was strip-mined for coal before Ohio acquired it in 1995. Since then, the state and the public have invested significantly in its long-term restoration. Opening this land to fracking would reverse that progress and move in exactly the wrong direction. When these lands were transferred to the state, the expressed purpose was preservation and restoration, not renewed extraction.

In fact, this concern is so serious that we have introduced **HB 399** to prohibit the expansion of oil and gas drilling and fracking on Ohio's state parks and other public lands. The reason is simple: these lands belong to the public, and their purpose is conservation, recreation, and long-term stewardship, not short-term industrial extraction that threatens water quality, wildlife habitat, and public health.

Ohio can achieve energy reliability and energy independence without sacrificing our wildlife areas. We can meet our energy needs through existing infrastructure, added generation, efficiency improvements, and accelerated renewable energy development, rather than expanding fracking into places that were set aside for restoration and public use.

Each well pad requires millions of gallons of locally sourced water and produces toxic waste that must be managed permanently. This waste creates serious risks for nearby communities, wildlife, and water resources, including the possibility of contamination entering our drinking water or food supply.

At the center of Egypt Valley is **Piedmont Lake**, a critical habitat for wildlife and a destination for families, boaters, and outdoor recreation. Putting Piedmont Lake at risk is unacceptable.

For all of these reasons, I urge you to deny **Nominations 26-DNR-0001 and 26-DNR-0002**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Tristan Rader
State Representative, District 13



Christine Cockley
State Representative, District 6