



Ohio Environmental Council
[Action Fund]



135th Ohio General Assembly

2023 Scorecard Update



Ohio Environmental Council
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About the OEC Action Fund & Scorecard

The Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) Action Fund is the accountability and lobbying arm of the OEC family of organizations. We know smart policies are only useful when our elected leaders have the courage to act. The OEC Action Fund ensures lawmakers are supported when they act in the interest of Ohio's environment and are held accountable when they vote to support policies which harm our air, land, water or democracy. When election time comes, we remind voters where candidates stand on environmental protection, conservation and climate, actively endorsing and supporting candidates who champion our issues.

We've created the OEC Action Fund Scorecard to both hold lawmakers accountable for votes that damage our environment, and celebrate our climate champions. The scorecard focuses on four policy areas: energy, water, public lands and democracy.

The narratives and scores included reflect the actions of state-level decision makers on key environmental decisions and legislation during the first half of the 135th Ohio General Assembly, which spanned 2023. For this snapshot, we've given the DeWine administration, Secretary of State LaRose, and the Redistricting Commission a score that takes into account its policy stances on our four focus areas that are related to their work. For members of the Ohio General Assembly, you'll see how each member voted on our priority legislation, actions they took to sponsor or co-sponsor legislation, and their overall score. Most importantly, you'll see the environmental policy picture for the state of Ohio in 2023.

For more about the OEC Action Fund:
theoecactionfund.org



Scorecard Methodology

The OEC Action Fund Scorecard is modeled off of the [National Environmental Scorecard](#) facilitated by the League of Conservation Voters to score environmental actions in Congress. The scorecard uses a very simple methodology and involves no weighting of certain bills over others. The Action Fund tracked votes and actions on bills which fell into our core advocacy areas of water, public lands, energy and democracy. When possible, we notified lawmakers in advance when they were being scored on a vote for a particular bill. In a few cases, lawmakers were not notified as a result of last minute changes to bills or votes being scheduled with little to no time for public comment.

Each bill that we consider is carefully reviewed by our policy experts who utilize verified scientific information to determine the environmental impact that policy proposals will have on Ohio's environment and our democracy. When the OEC Action Fund takes a stance on a bill, we work to engage state lawmakers, our members, the public, and the media on the impacts the legislation will have on Ohio.

Scoring Lawmakers

For each bill the OEC Action Fund scored, we tracked the floor vote, the committee vote, and bill sponsors—including primary and

cosponsors—at the time of bill introduction. If the bill was an anti-environment bill, we labeled the sponsorship and “yes” votes on the bill with the color red, representing negative actions and votes. Conversely, “no” votes on anti-environment bills were marked with green. If the bill was a pro-environment bill, we labeled the sponsorship and “yes” votes on the bill with the color green, representing positive actions and votes. “No” votes on pro-environment bills were marked with the color red.

To determine the final score for each lawmaker, we added up their total positive actions and the total negative actions. We then divided the number of positive actions by the total number of actions (positive and negative actions) to create a score between zero and one. For purposes of the scoresheet, we multiplied the score by 10 to create a whole number, ultimately providing each lawmaker a score between 0-10. Lawmakers who missed votes were not penalized in this scoring system, as missed votes were omitted from the calculation of the final score.

The scoring system was applied equally to all lawmakers. Lawmakers who have fewer than three actions in 2023 were not eligible to receive a score. In a few cases, former lawmakers who had three or more actions in

2023 were included. The most recently serving member for each district is listed in our scoring spreadsheet.

Scoring Governor DeWine

To determine Governor DeWine's score, our policy experts identified and scored major administrative actions on a scale of zero to ten. The OEC Action fund defines a major administrative action as any decision made by the Governor or a state agency that can strengthen environmental protections or increase environmental degradation. For democracy-related actions, we consider any decision that positively or negatively impacts fair, accessible, and equitable opportunities for democratic engagement as a major administrative action. To calculate the overall score, we added all of the action scores together and divided by the total number of actions. We followed the same process to calculate an average score for energy, land, democracy, and water.

Scoring the Ohio Redistricting Commission

The work of the Ohio Redistricting Commission is the single most impactful body that can positively or negatively impact the health of Ohio's democracy by drawing state legislative maps through the redistricting process. A fair redistricting process is one that is devoid of political gerrymandering to ensure

every community has fair representation in state and national legislatures. The members of this body were scored for every vote they took regarding how fair or partisan those maps were. Those scores were combined to summarize the action of the members of this body.

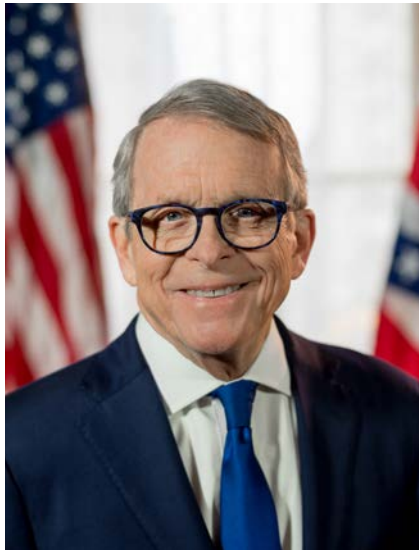
Scoring Secretary of State LaRose

In past scorecards, the OEC Action Fund has not discussed nor scored the activities of the Ohio Secretary of State. However, after the many anti-democratic actions taken by Secretary of State LaRose over the past four years, including redistricting, the development of House Joint Resolution 6, and beyond, the OEC Action Fund intends to score the office moving forward. In this year's scorecard, we will briefly discuss Secretary of State LaRose's harmful actions toward democracy, foreshadowing what a complete Secretary of State scorecard may look like in the future.

As we continue developing our scorecard for current and future General Assemblies, we will refine our methodology and inform Legislators and relevant Statewide Officials of our adjustments.



REVIEW: Gov. DeWine & Administration



Governor DeWine started as a strong leader on land and water issues during his first term. However, his leadership on protecting our public lands has declined and he continues to support legislation that favors fossil fuel interests, instead of investing in Ohio's clean energy economy.

The Governor continues to lead efforts to fund and expand the H2Ohio program, the state's science-based and well rounded water quality improvement program. Additionally, the DeWine administration has taken initial steps to further protect the Big and Little Creek watershed in Central Ohio, the state's most biologically diverse watershed.

Unfortunately, the Governor and his administration failed to oppose problematic legislation that supports fossil fuel profits over people; he signed HB 201 into law which included a provision that allows natural gas utilities to increase how much money they can charge customers to fund infrastructure investments that benefit private companies. Additionally,

the Governor's Oil and Gas Land Management Commission opened up Ohio's public lands to natural gas fracking for the first time in state history. This move followed the Governor's signing of legislation at the beginning of 2023 that enabled this to occur in the first place through House Bill 507 (134th General Assembly). Finally, the Governor voted in favor of gerrymandered maps during the redistricting process yet again in September of 2023.

Secretary LaRose



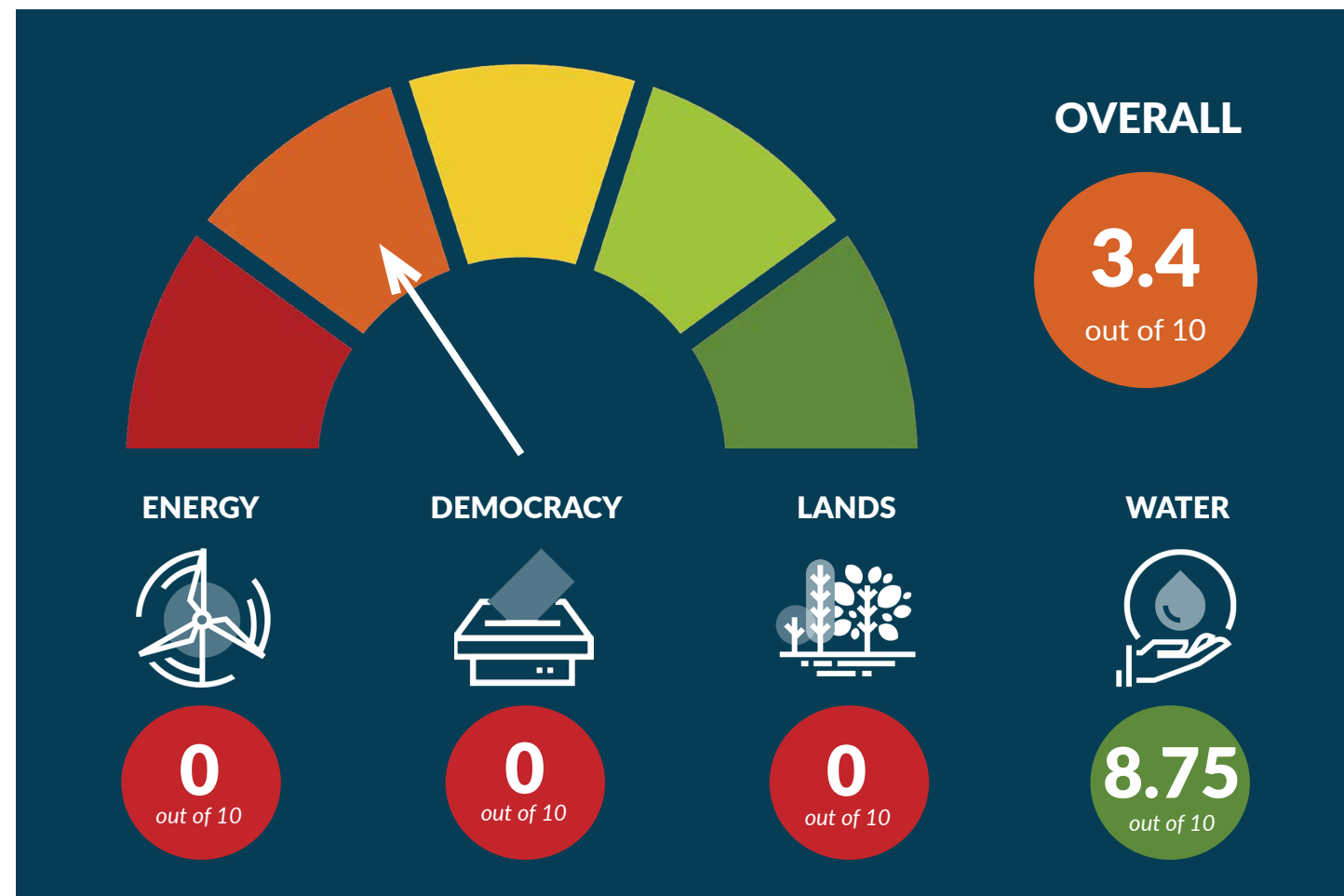
In the previous OEC Action Fund Scorecard, we noted it has become clear that the Secretary of State's office wields power that significantly impacts the democracy issues at the center of the OEC Action Fund's work.

In 2022, Secretary of State Frank LaRose was elected to his second and final term. Throughout his tenure as Secretary of State, LaRose has taken a number of anti-democratic actions harmful to Ohioans and ultimately harmful to environmental progress in the state.

During 2023, Secretary LaRose:

- Supported reinstating Ohio's August Special Elections (even after these elections were removed through HB 458 during the 134th General Assembly) for the purposes of voting on Issue 1, which attempted to end Ohio's 100+ year old tradition of majority rule and make it even more difficult for Ohioans to place issues on the ballot
- Supported Issue 1 in August, using his official elected office
- Purged registered voters before the November General Election
- Created absentee ballot guidance confusion for the Cuyahoga County BOE

Overall Score: 0



Ohio Redistricting Commission

The OEC Action Fund works to safeguard the integrity and accessibility of Ohio's democracy. Without a healthy democracy, we cannot have a healthy environment. In practice, working for a stronger democracy means that we protect and expand voting rights so all eligible Ohioans have an accessible path to vote and have their voices heard on the environment and other issues they care about. We also advocate for fair redistricting processes without political gerrymandering to ensure every community has fair representation in state and national legislatures.

In September 2023, members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission once again approved gerrymandered legislative districts. For that reason, we give the Ohio Redistricting Commission a score of 0.

Overall Score: 0

Members of the Commission (September 2023): Governor Mike DeWine (R), Secretary of State LaRose (R), Auditor Faber (R), Representative Jeff LaRe (R), Senate Majority Whip Rob McColley (R), Senator Antonio (D), House Minority Leader Russo (D)



Legislation Descriptions

Below is the list of legislation that the OEC Action Fund actively tracked and scored during the first half of the 2023-2024 General Assembly period. This list provides the House Bill (HB) and Senate Bill (SB) number, a brief description of each bill and the primary sponsor(s) for each bill. Legislation with a green checkmark are pro-environmental bills or pro-democracy bills and legislation with a red X are anti-environmental bills or anti-democracy bills. More information about each bill can be found on the [OEC Action Fund's online legislative tracker](#).

- ✓ **HB 40** (Rep. Skindell): Create a Permanent Absentee Voter List
- ✓ **HB 41** (Rep. Skindell): "Consumer Utility Bill transparency Act"
- ✓ **HB 43** (Rep. Skindell): Ban the Removal of Oil and Natural Gas from Under Lake Erie
- ✓ **HB 79** (Reps. Seitz, Sweeney): To Establish Consumer Energy Efficiency Programs
- ✓ **HB 120** (Reps. Weinstein, Brennan): Repeal Portions of HB 6 (OVEC Coal Subsidies)
- ✗ **HB 144** (Rep. Manchester): Allow an August Special Election For Certain Purposes
- ✓ **HB 197** (Reps. Hoops, Ray): Community Solar Program
- ✗ **HB 201** (Reps. Hillyer, Demetriou): Prohibit the sale restrictions on motor vehicle based on power source & Allow for Natural Gas Bill Riders on Economic Development Projects
- ✗ **HB 208** (Rep. Hall): Establish Closed Primary Elections in Ohio
- ✗ **HB 210** (Reps. Click, Gross): Establish Closed Primary Elections in Ohio
- ✓ **HB 363** (Rep. Troy): Improves the PUCO Nominating Council and Nomination Process
- ✗ **HJR 1** (Rep. Stewart): Require 60% Vote to Approve Any Constitutional Amendment
- ✗ **SB 51** (Sen. Gavarone): Establish a so called "Election Integrity Division"
- ✗ **SB 83** (Sen. Cirino): Enact the "Ohio Higher Education Enhancement Act" which prohibits universities from endorsing, opposing, or teaching certain topics including climate change
- ✗ **SB 92** (Sens. McColley, Gavarone): Allow Special Election to be held in August for Certain Purposes
- ✓ **SB 102** (Sen. Wilkin): Regards public utilities competitive electric and gas services
- ✗ **SB 137** (Sen. Gavarone, DeMora): Generally prohibit use of ranked choice voting for municipalities
- ✗ **SB 147**: Establish Closed Primary Elections in Ohio
- ✓ **SB 149** (Sen. Smith): Prohibit Public Utilities Recovering Political Expenditures Costs
- ✓ **SB 150** (Sen. Smith): Prohibit Terminating Gas Service to certain Households
- ✗ **SB 184** (Sen. Antani): Prohibit the Use of Outdoor Receptacles for Absent Voter Ballots
- ✗ **SJR 2** (Sens. McColley, Gavarone): Require 60% Vote to Approve Any Constitutional Amendment

AT A GLANCE: 135th General Assembly Scores (as of Dec. 2023)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District	Representative	Score (out of 10)
1	Rep. Dontavius L. Jarrells (D)	10
2	Rep. Latyna Humphrey (D)	10
3	Rep. Ismaili Mohamed (D)	10
4	Rep. Mary Lightbody (D)	10
5	Rep. Richard Brown (D)	10
6	Rep. Adam C. Miller (D)	10
7	Rep. C. Allison Russo (D)	10
8	Rep. Beth Liston (D)	10
9	Rep. Munira Abdullahi (D)	10
10	Rep. Dave Dobos (R)	0
11	Rep. Anita Somani (D)	10
12	Rep. Brian Stewart (R)	0
13	Rep. Michael Skindell (D)	10
14	Rep. Sean Brennan (D)	9
15	Rep. Richard "Rick" Dell'Aquila (D)	10
16	Rep. Bride Rose Sweeney (D)	10
17	Rep. Thomas Patton (R)	7
18	Rep. Darnell Brewer (D)	10
19	Rep. Phil Robinson (D)	10
20	Rep. Terrence Upchurch (D)	10
21	Rep. Elliot Forhan (D)	10
22	Rep. Juanita Brent (D)	10
23	Rep. Daniel P. Troy (D)	10
24	Rep. Dani Isaacsohn (D)	10
25	Rep. Cecil Thomas (D)	10

District	Representative	Score (out of 10)
26	Rep. Sedrick Denson (D)	10
27	Rep. Rachel Baker (D)	10
28	Rep. Jessica E. Miranda (D)	10
29	Rep. Cindy Abrams (R)	0
30	Rep. William Seitz (R)	2
31	Rep. Bill Roemer (R)	0
32	Rep. Bob Young (R)	0
33	Rep. Tavia Galonski (D)	10
34	Rep. Casey Weinstein (D)	10
35	Rep. Steve Demetriou (R)	0
36	Rep. Andrea White (R)	DNQ
37	Rep. Tom Young (R)	0
38	Rep. Willis E. Blackshear Jr. (D)	10
39	Rep. Phil Plummer (R)	0
40	Rep. Rodney Creech (R)	0
41	Rep. Josh Williams (R)	0
42	Rep. Derek Merrin (R)	1
43	Rep. Michele Grim (D)	10
44	Rep. Elgin Rogers Jr. (D)	10
45	Rep. Jennifer Gross (R)	3
46	Rep. Thomas Hall (R)	0
47	Rep. Sara Carruthers (R)	3
48	Rep. Scott Oelslager (R)	0
49	Rep. Jim Thomas (R)	0
50	Rep. Reggie Stoltzfus (R)	0

District	Representative	Score (out of 10)
51	Rep. Brett Hillyer (R)	8
52	Rep. Gayle Manning (R)	0
53	Rep. Joseph A. Miller (D)	10
54	Rep. Dick Stein (R)	0
55	Rep. P. Scott Lipps (R)	0
56	Rep. Adam Mathews (R)	0
57	Rep. Jamie Callender (R)	DNQ
58	Rep. Al Cutrona (R)	DNQ
59	Rep. Lauren McNally (D)	10
60	Rep. Bryan Lorenz (R)	0
61	Rep. Beth Lear (R)	0
62	Rep. Jean Schmidt (R)	3
63	Rep. Adam C. Bird (R)	0
64	Rep. Nick Santucci (R)	0
65	Rep. Mike Loychik (R)	3
66	Rep. Sharon A. Ray (R)	4
67	Rep. Melanie Miller (R)	0
68	Rep. Thadeus "Thad" Clagget (R)	0
69	Rep. Kevin Miller (R)	0
70	Rep. Brian E. Lampton (R)	DNQ
72	Rep. Gail K. Pavliga (R)	3
73	Rep. Jeff LaRe (R)	3
74	Rep. Bill Dean (R)	2
74	Rep. Bernard Willis (R)	0
75	Rep. Haraz N. Ghanbari (R)	0

District	Representative	Score (out of 10)
76	Rep. Marilyn S. John (R)	0
77	Rep. Scott Wiggam (R)	3
78	Rep. Susan Manchester (R)	0
79	Rep. Monica Robb Blasdel (R)	3
80	Rep. Jena Powell (R)	0
81	Rep. James Hoops (R)	5
82	Rep. Roy Klopfenstein (R)	3
83	Rep. Jon Cross (R)	0
84	Rep. Angela King (R)	0
85	Rep. Tim Barhorst (R)	0
86	Rep. Tracy Richardson (R)	DNQ
87	Rep. Riordan T. McClain (R)	0
88	Rep. Gary Click (R)	0
89	Rep. D.J. Swearingen (R)	0
90	Rep. Justin Pizulli (R)	3
91	Rep. Bob Peterson (R)	3
92	Rep. Mark Johnson (R)	0
93	Rep. Jason Stephens (R)	DNQ
94	Rep. Jay Edwards (R)	7
95	Rep. Don Jones (R)	DNQ
96	Rep. Ron Ferguson (R)	3
97	Rep. Adam Holmes (R)	0
98	Rep. Darrell Kick (R)	0
99	Rep. Sarah Fowler Arthur (R)	DNQ

SENATE

District	Senator	Score (out of 10)
1	Sen. Rob McColley (R)	0
2	Sen. Theresa Gavarone (R)	0
3	Sen. Michele Reynolds (R)	1.25
4	Sen. George Lang (R)	0
5	Sen. Steve Huffman (R)	0
6	Sen. Niraj Antani (R)	1.25
7	Sen. Steve Wilson (R)	0
8	Sen. Louis Blessing (R)	2
9	Sen. Catherine Ingram (D)	8
10	Sen. Bob Hackett (R)	0
11	Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson (D)	10
12	Sen. Matt Huffman (R)	0
13	Sen. Nathan Manning (R)	4
14	Sen. Terry Johnson (R)	0
15	Sen. Hearcel Craig (D)	10
16	Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R)	0
17	Sen. Shane Wilkin (R)	0
18	Sen. Jerry Cirino (R)	0
19	Sen. Andy Brenner (R)	0
20	Sen. Tim Schaffer (R)	1
21	Sen. Kent Smith (D)	10
22	Sen. Mark Romanchuk (R)	3
23	Sen. Nickie Antonio (D)	10
24	Sen. Matt Dolan (R)	0
25	Sen. William DeMora (D)	9

District	Senator	Score (out of 10)
26	Sen. Bill Reineke (R)	0
27	Sen. Kristina Roegner (R)	0
28	Sen. Vernon Sykes (D)	10
29	Sen. Kirk Schuring (R)	0
30	FORMER Sen. Frank Hoagland (R)	0
30	Sen. Brian Chavez	DNQ
31	Sen. Al Landis (R)	0
32	Sen. Sandra O'Brien (R)	0
33	Sen. Michael Rulli (R)	0

For a full accounting of lawmaker votes and scoring, please visit: bit.ly/ocaf-135ga-data



SCORE				
0 - 2	2.1 - 4	4.1 - 6	6.1 - 8	8.1 - 10

DNQ = Did not qualify



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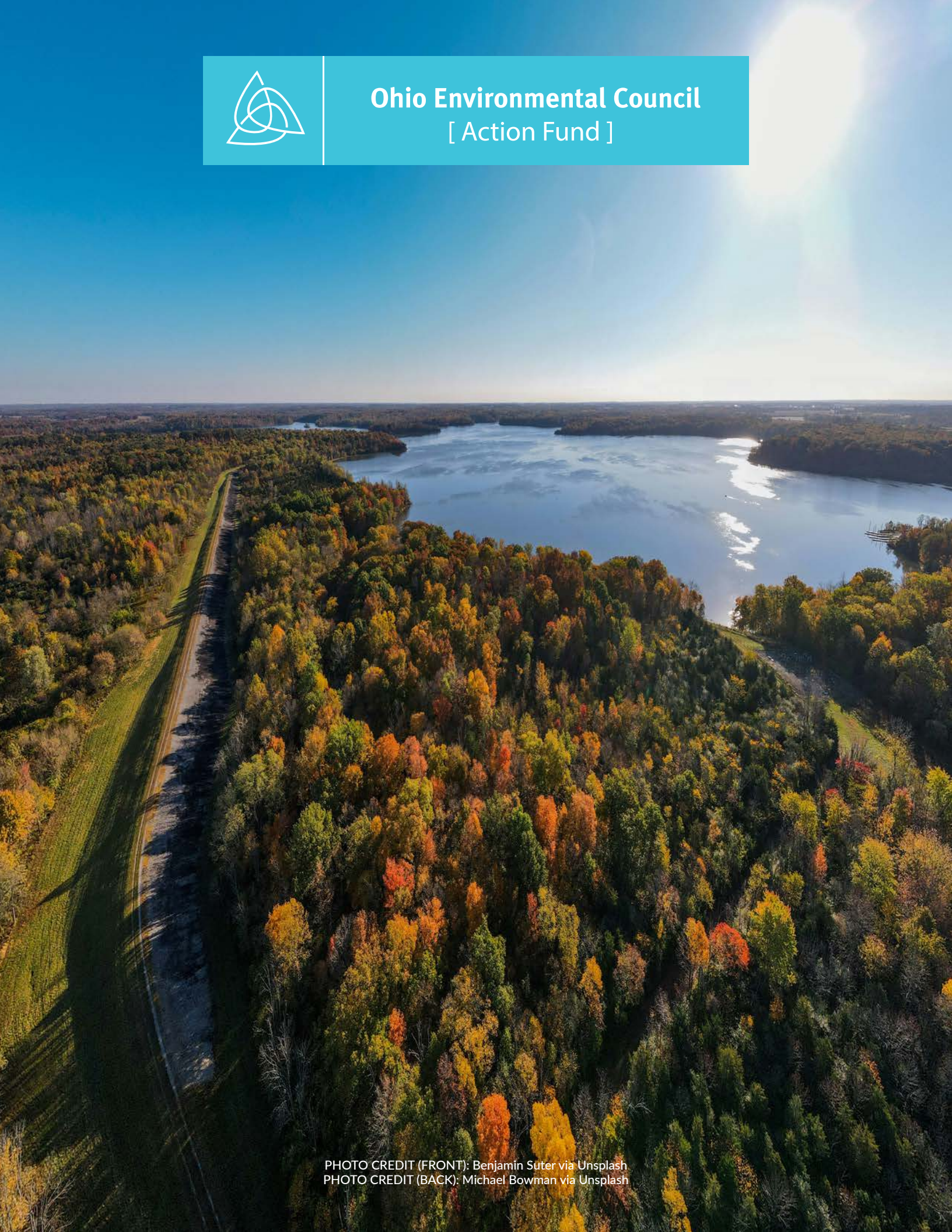


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