



## **DECEMBER, 2021 REPORT #11**

### ***NUMEROUS GROUPS JOIN OHBA IN SUPPORT OF HB 175***

HB 175 had its second hearing for proponents in the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. HB 175 would remove 'ephemeral features' from the definition of 'waters of the state'. OHBA's Executive Vice President, Vince Squillace, offered testimony focused on both the shortage of housing and developed lots in Ohio. In addition to OHBA, numerous groups also offered support including, The Ohio Chamber of Commerce, Ohio Realtors, Ohio Oil and Gas Association, Aggregates, Coal Association, Associated General Contractors, and the Municipal League, among others. OHBA welcomes the array of proponents coming out for HB 175. Yesterday's hearing can be viewed at the link below.

<https://ohiochannel.org/video/ohio-senate-agriculture-and-natural-resources-committee-11-30-2021>

Even with the most recent Arizona Court ruling reinstating the pre-2015 WOTUS rules and definitions, bringing 'ephemeral streams' back under the jurisdiction of the Army Corp of Engineers, HB 175 remains an important vehicle in a very fluid, and uncertain future of how these and other water features will be defined and regulated.

OHBA continues to work with the sponsor, industry groups, and the Senate Committee. Further, OHBA is also still involved with the ERAC appeal of the Ephemeral General Permit working through those negotiations, as well.

Feel free to contact OHBA with any questions.