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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I totally support a national plan for preservation, growth, and sustainability of old growth forest for many reasons: primarily to address the 'Climate Crisis' and support of diminishing wildlife. The following is a plan that I and my coalition are implementing for Ohio and that compliments the proposed national plan:

## GREEN OHIO PLAN

1. Make Ohio a leader in the clean energy economy and preservation of relatively 'Old Growth Forests' - Ohio is at the 'Northwoods' & 'Industrial Heart' and crossroads of our nation and possesses much environmental responsibility and history at stake to share with the nation.

\*Leverage the recently approved federal subsidies (Inflation Reduction Act, Infrastructure Investments, and Jobs Act incentives) to make Ohio a national leader for attracting large amounts of private capital into clean energy investments by shifting the risk-return profile. This is an opportunity for creating a green bank that uses federal/state resources to reduce the risks to private and institutional investors -- and thereby multiplying the level of investments many times to fund clean energy infrastructure. Clyde has a direct relationship with a major non-profit international organization that has the leadership for a vast network of investors controlling more than \$50 trillion in combined assets that specializes in this resource of 'green energy', known as "Ceres". (Observe Ceres on the website for the scope and detail of their public services.)

\*Energy - Ramp up (1) solar, wind, carbon conversion, and other technology, generating electricity - including rooftop solar on retail, industrial buildings and residential units, wind-generated electricity in Northwestern Ohio; and at the same time (2) attract major investors' in electrifying transportation, heating and cooling of buildings.

Note: Industrial buildings have a vast array of flat rooftops available for solar fields.

State support to bring in the maximum amounts of federal funds from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) to benefit Ohio community's infrastructure improvements and clean energy investments.

\*It is noted that Ohio is falling way behind other States with a Green Energy Plan; and China is leading all other countries, including United States with renewable energy metrics, electric vehicle fleets, and industrial energy demands.

\*Water - Long Term H2Ohio funding through a bond to make sure that the program continues beyond the DeWine Administration.

\*Support and compliment the automotive and trucking industry of Ohio for implementing their 2025 electric energy transition plan.

Dramatically expand EV charging infrastructure by engaging your administration officials in charge of clean energy incentives, as well as electric utilities, corporate owners of large vehicle fleets, public utility regulators, vehicle manufacturers in Ohio and large institutional investors, and mayors' offices who have large city-owned fleets.

oElectrify the Ohio Department of Natural Resources vast vehicle fleet as a 'model' for other large energy efficient vehicle fleets in Ohio.

2. Continue H2O mission; Mike, your important work on water quality with a focus on Lake Erie and reduction of agricultural nitrates in-flowing rivers and streams causing lake toxic algae bloom. Ohio compliments you for this important mission. We are privileged to have the Great Lakes in our front yard - being the most significant body of fresh waters on planet earth. That privilege requires a responsibility of care; therefore we are most grateful.

\*Extend your H2O mission to groundwater protection - including curtailing fracking for oil, especially in and near state parks and preserved habitat, given the toxic chemical loads they are injecting into the groundwater.

3. Encourage Ohio Department of Natural Resources to create and implement a masterplan, and 'model' for effective stewardship of Ohio's state old growth forests and preserves. We already have such a model crafted, previously submitted for your assessment.

\*Shift ODNR emphasis from timbering our state forest to; expanding forest educational materials that promote sustainable timber harvesting, and that improves forest health to prevent further wildlife and habitat destruction. Also to aid sequestering carbon dioxide for the benefit of all. Current timber harvesting practices has limited benefits and greatly diminishes the environmental value of our state forests. 93% privately owned forests supply the commercial needs. ODNR must alter their purpose to protecting Ohio's forestry health as well as the economic interests.

\*Discontinue prescribed, controlled burning of Ohio forests that also cause extensive wildlife and habitat destruction (except in regions of necessary invasive plants control ;) however, other options of invasives control are available and protective of wildlife.

\*ODNR implement a plan for preservation of relatively old growth forest; promote forest management to increase resiliency of Ohio's young post agricultural forest representing 2/3's of Ohio's forest that have low diversity, and plagued with invasive species.

\*Invest in a state nursery to increase availability of native, locally sourced trees for planting.

\*Cease fracking alongside and underground any state-owned land - such as state parks, preserves and forests. The state has legal incentive to combat old land deeds that contain ancient and outdated mineral rights that are adversely impacting public lands.

\*Promote sustainable agricultural practices, specifically those preventing nitrates and chemical runoff and harmful algal blooms.

\*Allocate IRA funding to all existing Ohio urban forestry plans to establish and implement property owner education programs and provide subsidies and tax incentives to property owners to plant trees and create wildlife habitat on their properties. Increase funding and guidelines to all state and municipal parks to increase or establish native plant communities and to educate the public in the establishment of urban and suburban native plant communities.

4. Recognize and foster citizen leadership in Ohio to preserve and protect land - including restoring riverbanks to prevent agricultural nutrient runoff into streams and rivers triggering algae blooms. The ideal solution for this problem would be the mandating of vegetative stream buffers on all Ohio streams.

The 30 land trusts in Ohio are making major contributions to habitat preservation - and their impact needs to be amplified and commended to help address the crisis we face.

\*Compliment ODNR for their recent land, forest, and wetlands acquisitions.

\*Increase and continue the NRAD programs that assist local groups to acquire and improve lands and forests.

\*Improve the pipeline of young folks into green jobs, especially those from underrepresented groups.

5. Ohio has but one National Forest "Wayne" and but one State Wilderness Preserve "Shawnee":

\*Ohio must designate at least one more 'National Forest' and two more 'Wilderness Preserves', to enhance the relatively small regions of natural lands set aside for environmental, public and wildlife values.

6. Environmental education:

\*Engage and support the children and schools of Ohio to develop curriculum for environmentally sustainable concepts and lifestyles - so they may experience a sense of agency and purpose to counteract trends towards anxiety about their environmental futures. It is important that this effort be implemented in addition to, and not in place of, the measures above.

\*The presence of Ohio children is likely one of the most important elements for engaging the young Ohio public with a green plan and sense the urgency to save our planet from extinction of all life as we know. It would be ideal if "outdoor education" could be incorporated into all Ohio schools. This may demand a retraining of teachers to show them how important and exciting learning can be in an outdoor environment. Few things are as important as developing a sensitivity to the natural world.

\*A reminder: 150 years ago our planet had 1 billion human population; our planet now boasts 8 billion; recent

science observations forecast 11-13 billion in this century. This will be beyond the planet earth's carrying capacity? The environmental, natural resources, wildlife, available lands, forest, food and water, will truly be tested; as we have already exploited every natural resource known on planet earth! Our actions are in panic mode to become creative and aid with every opportunity.

7. Prioritize the creation of electric rapid transit in Ohio. Electric street cars were common and popular just 100 years ago, when I was a child; however, soon transitioned to gasoline motor buses - spewing suffocating toxic fumes. I rode electric street cars as a youth.

8. We, you, must contact the Mayors to compliment and engage cities of Ohio, such as Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Pickerington and Reynoldsburg - that have, or are, already preparing their local "Green Plan"; so as to incorporate and make them feel a part of a comprehensive "Green Ohio Plan".

\*Increase urban tree canopy should also be a strategic goal; to promote and coordination amongst Ohio cities to improve reforestation of urban areas.

9. The major, international, non-profit organization known as 'CERES' is participating with us to share their vast knowledge and experience, for creating an "Green Ohio Plan". 'Ceres' mission is to educate, provide funding sources, and incentives, to aid large industry in transitioning their infrastructure and operations to 'green energy'; thereby, their bottom-line economy plan increases more profitability and value to our state's healthy environment - and with great historic international success. Ohio must form a partnership with CERES to further our mutual missions.

10. Bring together a coalition of environmental organizations to aid with creating and implementing a Green Ohio Plan to include: OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL, CERES, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, OHIO NATURAL AREAS, OHIO FOREST COUNCIL, SIERRA. GREENSPACE, LAND TRUSTS, HOLDEN FOREST & GARDENS, OTHER ARBORETUMS, AUTUBONS, LAND TRUSTS (30+), THE WILDERNESS CENTER, REGIONAL METRO PARKS, OHIO NATURAL AREAS & PRESERVE ASSOC, METRO PARKS, ARC OF APPALACHIA, STRATFORD ECOLOGICAL CENTER, OTHER?

\* We celebrate the one-year anniversary of the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act - the largest investment in climate action in our nation's history. Clean energy investments have already spurred more than \$8 billion in investments and helped create or move forward more than 5,300 good-paying clean energy jobs in the state. We're excited to continue working with communities to put these dollars to work for Ohioans and tackle the climate crisis.

11. In the interest of reinforcing your leadership and vision, Mike, I advise that you sponsor a set of Ohio conferences that attract the public and professionals from multiple sectors of the economy, concerned citizens and experts, to foster participation in the plan and reinforce the options that you and we have defined. I will help you, as desired, with these contacts as I know the resources, I offer to be your advisor, and aid you with crafting your said meeting agendas, as you may desire.

\*It is noted that Ohio has sadly fallen behind all other states, to become last nationally in terms of "green energy" development and innovation; Michigan, our neighbor, being 3rd in the nation in terms of 'green electric energy'. The Ohio State approval and enactment of HB 6 set Ohio back for decades; that criminal act being seriously punished at this time. However, we must place that sobering act behind us and move forward with great initiative and opportunities.

\*It is also important to remind ourselves that the U.S. is the largest creator for creating 'Greenhouse Gas', next to China and India (others) that create and impose the most environmental gases upon all other underserved and vulnerable nations and communities globally (that are suffering from our industrial agenda - and have no recourse recovery.) Therefore, our responsibilities are vast, sobering, and compelling...

\*ACEEE, Energy Efficiency Day 2023 is coming up on October 4! More than 1,100 local governments, universities, organizations, corporations, and utilities will be spreading awareness about the benefits of energy

efficiency. Ohio and organizations can join the event by signing up as an Energy Efficiency Day participant.

\*Partner with other states and communities that are leaders in 'green energy' to leverage our knowledge and technology advancement.

12. I advise that you delegate an official "Green Team" consisting of at least (5) environmentally knowledgeable members. The 'Team' will then delegate committees to address specific 'Green Missions'.

\*I and many regional professionals are here to help you finalize and implement your Green Ohio Plan, and the delegated Team, as you may direct.

Respectfully, Clyde Gosnell, OFC (Ohio Forest Coalition) Repr'.