



THE OHIO SIERRAN

A Publication of the Ohio Chapter of the Sierra Club

www.ohiosierraclub.org



SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet

March/April 2010

Getting Back on Track with Passenger Rail and Transit

By Jen Miller, Conservation Program Coordinator

Ohio is finally getting on track in the transportation sector with the receipt of \$400 million in federal stimulus support to re-establish passenger rail in our state. By 2011, construction efforts will begin for a passenger rail line connecting Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Dayton, which will reach 60 percent of Ohio's population. This is the first step in a larger passenger rail and bus system that will connect dozens of Ohio cities as well as connect Ohioans to major destinations like Chicago and New York City. These investments will re-energize our economy, protect the environment, modernize our transportation choices, and decrease reliance on foreign oil.

While Ohio ranks 4th in the nation for greenhouse gas emissions, our state ranks 40th in mass transit spending as a percentage of total transportation appropriations. With

less than 1 percent of Ohio's transportation budget allocated towards public transit, Indiana spends nearly 4 times more per capita, Michigan nearly 10 times more, and Pennsylvania 33 times more. The 21st century economy will rely less on costly, dirty, and finite fossil fuels. Investments in the 3C start up will help us begin this transition. With 36 states currently developing or implementing statewide passenger rail plans, Ohio needed this economic boost to remain competitive.

According to the Council of State Governments, Ohio leads the nation in the growth of green jobs, and with the receipt of this federal support, even more of Ohio's skilled workforce will soon head back to work. Smart Growth America and Public Interest Research Group have found that stimulus money spent on public transit projects creates twice the number of jobs that highway projects create. While the fully-built Ohio Hub will create 16,700 Ohio jobs, this initial phase will result in at least 250 new jobs in construction, nearly 150 for the long-term operations of the corridor, and countless others in manufacturing. Economic development around the stations will

stimulate long-term revitalization of larger and smaller cities as well.

During the last transportation budget, the leadership in the Ohio Senate resisted investments in passenger rail despite the results of a Quinnipiac University poll from March 2009 that demonstrated that 64 percent of Ohioans supported this rail plan, with particularly strong support from younger generations. According to the American Public Transportation Association, more people are using public transit today than any time in the last 52 years, with a 38 percent increase in ridership since 1995. Public transit use in both urban and rural areas throughout Ohio increased 5 percent from 2007-2008 despite decreased state spending on transit service.

As local transit authorities continue to face budget shortfalls and with this big opportunity to jumpstart passenger rail, Ohio is at a critical juncture for redefining our transportation system. Like never before, we need to advocate for passenger rail and public transit. Contact Eileen Matias at ematias@neo.rr.com, or Enid Nagel at enidsierra@yahoo.com or 513-886-0333, to join the Ohio Chapter's Transportation Committee. ♦

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This is the final print edition of the Ohio Sierran!

The next edition will be available only on the Chapter website.

Go to www.ohiosierraclub.org and click on "Download the Latest Newsletter."

Please send your email address to Brandi.Whetstone@sierraclub.org so you will receive an email when the newsletter is posted.

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Vice Chair	John Broida
Treasurer	Linda Reeder
Secretary	open

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Environmental Justice	Marti Sinclair
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Human Rights	Rich Clark
Nuclear Issues	Pat Marida
Toxics	Marti Sinclair
Transportation	Eileen Matias
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2010 Executive and Conservation Committee Schedule

Mar. 21, May 16, July 18, Sept. 19, Nov. 21, and Jan. 22-23, 2011.

Meetings will normally be held at the Chapter office, 131 N. High St., Columbus. Please call the Chapter office 614-461-0734 to confirm meeting location and times. *Call Enid Nagel if you'd like to help!*

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OHIO SIERRAN deadline Mar. 21, 2010. Unsolicited articles will be considered. Articles originating from Ohio Chapter committees or relating to the work of the Chapter will have publication priority. Submissions to Earl Clausson at earlclausson@yahoo.com. *Newsletters reach members approximately six weeks after deadline.*

Sierra Members, Youth Play an Important Role at Copenhagen

By David Scott, Sierra Club Board of Directors

Last December, representatives and heads of state from over 190 nations gathered in Copenhagen for the most important international climate negotiations since Kyoto. The UN body that sponsors these ongoing negotiations allows nongovernmental organizations to send credentialed observers, and the Sierra Club responded in a big way. Our Sierra Club delegation numbered almost fifty people, including twenty youth members of our Sierra Student Coalition. Many of us paid our own expenses, and provisions were made for verifiable carbon offsets for members who wanted to purchase them.

The UN framework allows observers to have a meaningful role, and our members did. We received regular briefings on the status of negotiations from the US government negotiating team. Our student members took full advantage of these briefings, filling the front of the briefing rooms and asking tough but well-considered questions about a climate crisis that will profoundly affect their entire lives. Other members of our delegation suggested language and approaches for specific issues being considered by negotiators, such as protection of tropical rainforests and the climate impacts of changes in land use. As part of the Blue-Green Alliance, the Sierra Club also had a key role in working with our allies in organized labor to promote the

Green Jobs revolution that must be part of any meaningful response to climate change.

As an American, I'm proud to say that, after eight years of obstructionism by the previous White House, the US government finally took these UN climate negotiations seriously. Several high-level officials -- EPA Administrator Jackson, Energy Secretary Chu, and Interior Secretary Salazar among them -- offered concrete proposals regarding their areas of expertise. The US government sponsored a well-received science exhibit that showcased NASA and other federal agencies' data on various aspects of climate change, including disappearance of Arctic ice and increased acidification of the world's oceans. (Ocean acidity has increased due to carbon dioxide saturation, putting coral reef ecosystems at risk.)

Most importantly, President Obama is widely credited for rescuing the faltering negotiations and helping to assure that the world's largest greenhouse gas emitting nations left Copenhagen with an agreement at all.

Did the Copenhagen Accord go far enough to avert a potential climate catastrophe? Most assuredly not. The US commitment to cut 17 percent from 2005 emissions levels by the year 2020 is far too meager and puts off most of the hard work until some

future date. There are other challenges. China has now passed the US as the world's largest greenhouse gas emitter, and a transformation to clean energy by both China and India as well as the US is essential. The fact that most excess carbon dioxide now in the atmosphere came from US sources complicates negotiations immensely. Carbon dioxide lingers in the oceans and atmosphere for centuries. We need international agreements that treat US workers and consumers fairly, but the US industrialized by burning cheap, high-polluting coal and oil. We have some historical responsibility for climate change, and negotiating agreements that are fair to US workers and consumers and also fair to other nations is an immensely delicate and complicated task.

Some have condemned the nonbinding accord that came out of Copenhagen. I see the glass as half full. Nations came together with a common recognition of the need to limit emissions and to limit the rise in global temperatures. The world's two largest greenhouse gas producers, the US and China, reached an agreement that gives us some basis to move forward. Much, much work remains to be done. Most importantly, the US government must do its part here at home to back up President Obama's promises to the world and put us on a certain pathway to lower emissions. We need legislation followed by action, not just empty promises. But I'm proud to say that when the world gathered in Denmark last December, the Sierra Club was there. We'll keep fighting for responsible action both here at home and around the globe. We have no choice. ♦

ECHO Tape - Proud Supporters of the Sierra Club

ECHO Tape is proud to support and provide Sierra Club with financial support for the Chapter's advocacy efforts.

ECHO Tape is a manufacturer of recycled and certified backup tape media. Most recently ECHO has donated over eight hundred dollars from sales for the month of November in support of America Recycles Day. To celebrate St. Patrick's Day and Earth Day, you can get "green" with ECHO tape by participating in their fundraisers for the

Chapter during the weeks of March 15 and April 19.

"This partnership is mutually beneficial for both ECHO Tape and the Sierra Club Ohio Chapter. ECHO is committed to offering a green solution that is an environmentally responsible alternative to used data tape destruction as well as 100% certified. We are honored to work with the Sierra Club and look forward to a continued successful partnership," says Scott Taylor, ECHO Tape.

ECHO Tape reduces the cost of information technology purchases while helping reduce e-waste. Through their process of

recovering used tape, thoroughly eradicating data and selling cost effective reliable tape media, they are addressing all of the current needs of the progressive data center. With ECHO Tape you do more than just save green and responsibly protect your information, you are also doing your part to be "green" by participating in the EPA's Waste-Wise program.

WasteWise is an Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) sponsored program that is setting the standard for environmental leadership. ECHO Tape offers a green solution through a safe, secure and complete data eradication process. Thus reducing the amount of tapes incinerated, shredded or dumped into landfills. ♦

Aveda Salons Partner with Sierra Club to Raise Funds for Clean Water Campaign

By Brandi Whetstone, Conservation Program Coordinator

Aveda salons across the state will be raising funds during Earth Month 2010 to support Sierra Club's clean water work. We are proud to work with Aveda and appreciate the support from Aveda Institute Columbus to support our work in central Ohio. We encourage our members and supporters to visit their local Aveda salon regularly and support Aveda's up-coming efforts to raise funds for clean water.

The Sierra Club Ohio Chapter, particularly our local Groups across the state, has been a valued clean-water advocate in Ohio for decades. Through a combination of legal action, grassroots organizing, and administrative advocacy, we have conducted two

successful sewer campaigns in Cincinnati and Columbus. Our efforts resulted in plans to improve wastewater treatment systems in both Hamilton County and the city of Columbus to reduce the amount of untreated sewage entering our rivers and neighborhoods.

Sierra Club continues to be a strong clean water advocate by ensuring the proposed sewer improvements are implemented, educating the public about individual actions to conserve water and prevent pollution, and encouraging individual actions such as rain gardens and rain barrels to reduce water pollution in urban areas. We also have a strong presence in the Lake Erie watershed and advocate for state agency rules and decisions that better protect public health and drinking water. The Northeast Ohio and Western Lake Erie Groups participate in a variety of efforts to protect and restore Lake Erie.

We have also advocated for factory farm regulation and other measures to reduce manure and harmful agricultural chemicals in our waterways.

The Sierra Club statewide water campaign will focus on using public education and advocacy to reduce sources of nitrogen and phosphorus pollution in our waterways. Nitrogen and phosphorus are present in manure and fertilizers, as well as discharges from wastewater treatment plants. Excessive nitrogen and phosphorus pollution causes algae to bloom (blue-green algae is toxic), and can result in a "dead zone" where there is not enough oxygen in the water for fish to survive. Polluted drinking water sources also pose a risk to public health, and increases the cost of drinking water treatment.

In northern Ohio, the Lake Erie watershed is negatively impacted by the same pollutants, which threatens drinking water, tourism, fishing, and industry. The primary source of nitrogen and phosphorus pollution is agriculture, but lawn fertilizers and other land-use practices in urban areas also contribute to the problem. We will use this campaign to educate the public, elevate important water issues, and generate public pressure on the Ohio EPA and statewide officials to create standards that limit nitrogen and phosphorus pollution.

The Sierra Club will work to educate the public and reduce nitrogen and phosphorus pollution by:

- Activating the Ohio Chapter water committee, local Sierra Club Groups, and our members to increase public education about nitrogen and phosphorus pollution.

- Supporting local Sierra Club Groups who will work to educate the public about unique threats to important waterways in their area of the state.
- Sending action alerts to the 1,300 Ohioans who signed a national petition urging U.S. EPA to require the states to develop nutrient standards. We can recruit more volunteers through this list and encourage individual actions to protect the Ohio River and Lake Erie watersheds.
- Providing and distributing educational resources to discourage the use of phosphorus lawn fertilizers and increase green practices including rain gardens, rain barrels, tree-planting, and more. We can use a Clean Water Pledge to get commitments from individuals to take these actions.
- Putting public pressure on the Ohio EPA to encourage standards for nitrogen and phosphorus pollution. Standards will drive actions that reduce pollution from large agricultural sources.
- Activating local Groups to host water-themed movie screenings in Ohio's major cities. Two previous movie theater screenings hosted in Columbus have resulted in at least 200 people at each event.
- Engaging members and volunteers in water testing for priority watersheds, which will help track pollution and identify areas where further work is needed to reduce pollution.

Let Ohio EPA know that you support criteria for nitrogen and phosphorus pollution!

Our most significant sources of water pollution today come from unregulated sources like runoff from farms, suburban lawns and city streets. Nitrogen and phosphorus are present in fertilizers, animal waste and sewage pollution, and those pollutants wash into our rivers and streams every time it rains. According to The State EPA Nutrient Innovations Task Group 2009 report *An Urgent Call to Action*, "Nutrient-related pollution significantly impacts drinking water supplies, aquatic life, and recreational water quality. Continuing the status quo at the national, state and local levels and relying upon our current practices and control strategies will not support a positive public health and environmental outcome." View the report at <http://epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/nutrient/nitregrep.pdf>

We expect to see nitrogen and phosphorus standards out for public comment by this summer, and your support is needed to ensure that Ohio EPA is moving forward. Send a letter or email to:

George Elmaraghy, Chief of the Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, OH 43216-1049
Email: george.elmaraghy@epa.state.oh.us

Please put the following events on your calendar to help Sierra Club and Aveda raise money for the Clean Water Campaign. Also check our website for future updates as more events may be added.

April 7: Aveda Institute Columbus Beauty for the Earth—receive complimentary salon services in exchange for a donation to the Clean Water Campaign.

April 18: Cincinnati Walk for Water Fundraiser—location and time to be announced, check our website

April 25: Cleveland Walk for Water Fundraiser—location and time to be announced, check our website

May 4: Aveda Institute Columbus Earth Jam Fundraiser

Fast Times for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Resources

By Ned Ford, Energy Committee

What a difference a year makes! I probably said that before, but there is so much going on in Ohio with sustainable energy that no one is able to keep close track of it all. That's a good thing, too, but it also shows how much opportunity there is for Sierra Club activists to get involved.

From the top down: A year ago Ohio had passed, but not implemented, an energy efficiency law similar to the one Illinois had passed a year earlier. Today, Michigan and Pennsylvania are on the same track as Ohio for the first half of the law, and Indiana has just adopted a law which technically moves ahead of Ohio around 2015.

All of Ohio's electric utilities have developed good efficiency programs and all but First Energy are actively implementing them. All of Ohio's electric utilities are engaged in

developing good renewable resource programs, and some of them have initiated strong programs for development of wind and solar resources.

Under the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act, there is over \$275 million available for low income weatherization in Ohio, which is leading all other states in using these funds. We will probably use this money over the next two years in addition to the spending which has occurred since June of 2009.

We are confronted as well with many proposals for projects we don't want to see happen, including a proposed nuclear plant and some biomass projects which pose potentials for waste product combustion which can't be done safely, or for using more biomass than exists. Our front line defense for these projects is the strong performance of the efficiency and real renewable projects.

Ohio has a glut of energy capacity, aggravated by a strong drop in electricity use during the recession. At the same time we have scored some important victories which trim that resource – in November we saw the American Municipal Power proposal to build a new coal plant dropped, and in June of last year First Energy was required to put its electricity supply up for auction. The result of the auction was that First Energy must take more than forty percent of their electricity from other generators. These two changes reduce the available excess capacity, or at the least make it more expensive. At this time, it is impossible to be sure where we will wind up.

Much attention is placed on which coal plants are the dirtiest and should be shut down. This is not the best approach to our goals. We have seen a tremendous national reduction in electric consumption, and across the nation the electric utilities have stopped using the power plants we like the least. But if we do not work hard to increase the efficiency and renewable resources, the end of the recession will see these plants open up again. The utilities have a legal obligation to serve, and the cost of new renewables is still not low enough that we are guaranteed that they will replace old but operational coal plants. Only if we produce strong efficiency programs and argue for a combined analysis of the cost of efficiency and renewables are we able to guarantee enough clean energy to keep shutting down the old plants.

In 2017 the license for the Davis Besse nuclear plant expires. Although the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has extended the licenses for every nuclear plant which has applied, Davis Besse is easily the worst-run plant in the nation, and the most likely to be shut. If this happens and Ohio has not exceeded the efficiency and renewables standards the new law requires, this one plant closure will offset all the gains of the previous seven years, and place Ohio back at 2009 emission levels.

Worse, if we allow this or something like it to happen, we will have to install scrubbers on some of the old coal plants. This amounts to a life-extension for coal plants which will force a delay in responding to climate change.

There are too many opportunities to get involved to list here. Most of them require a long term commitment because one cannot have a real impact without learning the subject. Some of the areas we could really use help include developing efficiency and renewable resources for the public power entities, tracking renewables for the Sierra Club (other organizations track renewables, but not necessarily the way we want to follow them), getting involved in the development of programs for each of the large utilities, and tracking the development of the parallel activities including economic development programs in Ohio which have energy impacts, and things in nearby states.

It is always valuable to have letters in the papers encouraging more efficiency as our front line economic recovery plan. Ohio is awakening to the value of renewables development in this way, but efficiency is much more valuable and important than renewables in the next few years, not only for our power resources, but for our manufacturing and technology development potential.

Educating individual lawmakers is also critical. Without having a specific legislative objective, we can probably tame the impulse they have to subsidize bad projects and to attempt to force the industry in ways that it simply can't or shouldn't go, just by showing how important efficiency and real renewables are.

If you have interest in clean energy in Ohio, please join the Chapter energy list and contact or Ned Ford at Ned.Ford@fuse.net or Jen Miller at jennifer.miller@sierraclub.org. ♦

Create an Environmental Legacy.

Bequests have played a key role in the Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter. For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

Tom H. Nagel
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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Going Green: One State-Funded Building at a Time

By Jen Miller, Conservation Program Coordinator

Together with consumer and jobs advocates, the Sierra Club worked with Representatives Connie Pillich and Marian Harris to draft legislation that would make Ohio a leader in building green. The model language requires state-funded building projects to meet standards for sustainability and energy efficiency.

House Bill 7 builds upon a vision set forth through the energy efficiency standards in SB 221 that won bipartisan support last year, as well as the LEED schools initiative. Both policies give Ohio a competitive edge in the design, manufacturing, and construction of efficiency technologies, while reducing energy costs. The legislation's energy efficiency standards require projects funded through the capital budget achieve 30 percent energy savings above the current energy use standards developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers.

Sustainable green building designs, like LEED and Green Globe, encourage water

conservation and the reduction of storm water runoff. Green infrastructure and water efficiency measures protect local watersheds from pollution and reduce strain on the aging sewer and water infrastructure systems throughout the state. Through recycling standards and by encouraging the use of recycled materials, these sustainable design programs also significantly decrease landfill waste.

After gaining only one republican vote (Rep. Ross McGregor), House Bill 7 passed

in the House and now faces great challenges in the Senate. Despite the fierce partisan environment at the statehouse, our building code coalition of energy efficiency businesses, consumer advocates, green architects, and environmental organizations are continuing our advocacy efforts. This is good legislation that will benefit Ohio's environment, reduce energy use/costs in public buildings, and promote jobs in manufacturing and construction. Call your Senator today, and ask them to support House Bill 7. ♦

WANTED: GREEN BUILDERS!

Sustainable and efficient building practices are critical to cleaning our environment and promoting good-paying green jobs! As the Ohio Chapter continues to push for stronger building codes and other sustainable building policies, we need all the help we can get! We need builders, contractors, and architects who can submit testimony about the value of green buildings in both residential and commercial settings, write letters-to-the-editor, and demonstrate successes with incorporating efficiency and renewable technologies into building practices. For more information, contact Jen Miller at jennifer.miller@sierraclub.org or 614.461.0734 ext 304.

DON'T FORGET!

In March we sent out an appeal to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to our Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter's budget. When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in our own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able - and remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible.

Mail your contribution to:

Sierra Club Ohio Chapter
c/o March Appeal
P.O. Box 15243
Columbus OH 43215-9998

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Chapter Retreat Successful

The Chapter Retreat in January was full of information about the wonderful work the Ohio Chapter is doing. We had excellent weather which was great for the hike. Each committee reported on the previous year's work and discussed goals for the coming year. We had many successes, notably in our energy and water work. We also had an excellent session on fundraising given by national fundraising staffer Rhonda Barnes-Kloth. On Sunday Tim Guilfoile and Brandi Whetstone had a wonderful session on water testing. We hope to expand our work on clean water this year with our new water committee led by Tony Szilagy. Please join one of our issue committees to participate in our work on energy, coal, nuclear, water, and transportation issues. Thank you everyone for all the work you do all year. This will again be an important election year, so there is a lot for everyone to do.

Enid Nagel, Chapter Chair

PAC Treasurer Needed

Are you an accountant? The Ohio Chapter needs a new Treasurer for the Ohio Sierra Club Political Action Committee. Please email enidsierra@yahoo.com if you are interested in serving in this important position.

The Loss of a Major Pollinator Affects Everyone

By Laurel Hopwood, Genetic Engineering Committee Chair

Want to eat? Save the honeybee!

One out of every three bites of food we consume is due to the work of honeybees, serving as crucial pollinators. Yet our food supply may be severely impacted by the recently identified Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) syndrome that has annually wiped out more than 30% of all honeybees since 2005!

In light of the mounting evidence that new seed chemical coatings are deadly to bees, Sierra Club has been urging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ban the use of these specific chemical treatments to protect bees and crops until more study can be done.

At issue are the nicotinyl insecticides (also known as neonicotinoids) being used in a new way -- as seed coatings. For years, farmers have been spraying neonicotinoids onto their crops to stop insect infestation. Now, huge agribusiness corporations have acquired patents to coat their proprietary corn seeds with these neonicotinoids. These "neonics" are extremely persistent. They enter the plant and are present in pollen and on droplets of water on leaves.

Federal agencies in France, Germany and Italy have already taken responsible regulatory actions to suspend the use of these pesticides based on the best available scientific evidence. Strikingly, in Italy, honeybee populations immediately rebounded when these chemicals were suspended!

We urge Sierra Club members and the American public to view the outstanding documentary entitled *Nicotine Bees*. Producer Kevin Hansen did a superb job researching, interviewing and splicing together an extraordinary story on the CCD problem. We suggest showing the 45-minute film at meetings, home parties, classrooms, and community events.

We are calling *Nicotine Bees* the new *Silent Spring*. Without a doubt, *Nicotine Bees* should be in every home, school, and library! To purchase the video, visit <http://NicotineBees.com>

You are also encouraged to take action. Contact EPA's Steve Owens at owens.steve@epa.gov to request a suspension of the neonicotinoid seed coatings until independent scientists verify safety.

For more information, please contact me at lhopwood@roadrunner.com. ♦

Ohioans for Humane Farms Petitions to Put Measure on November Ballot Protecting Animal Welfare, Food Safety, Family Farmers and the Environment

Ohioans for Humane Farms submitted a petition—including signatures from Ohio voters in 48 counties, demonstrating broad and regionally diverse support—to Ohio's Attorney General in support of placing an anti-cruelty measure on the statewide November ballot. The proposed measure would allow voters to require the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board to adopt certain minimum standards that will prevent the cruel and inhumane treatment of farm animals, enhance food safety, protect the environment and strengthen Ohio family farms.

Utilizing a large volunteer base, the group will seek to collect more than 600,000 signatures of registered Ohio voters upon approval of the petition forms by the Secretary of State. The ballot measure is backed by The Humane Society of the United States, Farm Sanctuary, Ohio SPCA, the Sierra Club Ohio Chapter, Toledo Area Humane Society, Geauga Humane Society, Ohio League of Humane Voters, Center for Food Safety, United Farm Workers, Consumer Federation of America, Center for Science in the Public Interest, and a growing list of organizations.

This measure will allow Ohio voters to provide guidance to the newly enacted Livestock Board and set certain minimum humane standards that will prevent cruel factory farming practices in Ohio, including:

- Extreme confinement in tiny cages for months on end: Tens of thousands of veal calves, 170,000 breeding pigs, and approximately 27 million egg-laying hens in Ohio

are confined in cages and crates so restrictive the animals can barely move an inch for virtually their whole lives. Many don't even have enough room to stretch their limbs or turn around.

- Allowing "downer cows" to enter the human food chain: Allowing sick and injured animals into the food supply threatens public health and food safety. Cows too sick or injured to stand or walk on their own to slaughter should be humanely euthanized, not inhumanely dragged or pushed while being shocked and beaten onto the kill floor to be used for human consumption.

- Inhumane methods of euthanasia for sick and injured animals: In Ohio, a factory farmer was videotaped killing sick pigs by

hanging them execution-style from a tractor, leaving them to writhe in the air for minutes on end. He was acquitted of cruelty for the hangings, a verdict Ohio's agribusiness community hailed as a "huge victory," because Ohio has no law specifically requiring humane farm animal euthanasia methods.

The Board would have six years to implement these minimum standards, allowing producers ample time to transition to more humane systems. If the measure is enacted, Ohioans for Humane Farms hopes that the Livestock Board would immediately adopt minimum standards that address euthanasia and downer animals.

"We wouldn't cram our pets into cages barely larger than

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Sign up for our FREE action alert system!

The Ohio Chapter of the Sierra Club has created an ONLINE Action Alert system to assist in helping Ohio's environment. The Ohio Action Network is a fast, easy, and amazingly effective way for you to make a difference. With this free service, you can contact elected officials and others to make your opinion count. If you sign up, you will receive an e-mail on a current environmental issue in Ohio about ONCE PER MONTH. If you decide to reply to the action alert, you will be given a sample letter that you can automatically fax back to the appropriate public official FREE OF CHARGE.

To sign up, visit <http://ohio.sierraclubaction.org>

Continued from page 7 their bodies for their entire lives, and we shouldn't subject farm animals to this inhumane and unacceptable confinement either," stated Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The HSUS. "All animals deserve humane treatment, including animals raised for food."

"Mahatma Gandhi said you can judge a nation by the way it treats its animals. As a

veterinarian, I am duty-bound to protect the human-animal bond, and by supporting this measure, we as a state and nation will be improving the lives of animals," states Cleveland veterinarian Brian Forsgren, DVM.

"Ohioans oppose cruelty and believe that all animals, including farm animals, deserve to be protected," said Gene Baur, president of Farm Sanctuary. "In November, Ohioans will have the opportunity to make their voices heard and phase out some of the worst factory farm abuses."

Michigan recently became the latest state to adopt reforms, providing farm animals with more space to turn around and extend their limbs, passing a measure in its state legislature in 2009 very similar in form to the Ohio proposal. Similar laws also have been enacted in Arizona,

California, Colorado, Florida, Maine and Oregon.

The HSUS has more than 400,000 Ohio supporters. Farm Sanctuary is the nation's leading farm animal protection organization.

Facts

• In March 2009, HBO documentary Death on a Factory Farm revealed appalling mistreatment of pigs on an Ohio factory farm, including immobilization inside tiny crates and the killing of pigs by hanging them execution-style.

• Across Ohio, crated calves are tethered by the neck and can barely move, pigs in severe confinement bite the metal bars of their crates, and hens can get trapped and even impaled in their wire cages. There is overwhelming science demonstrating that such extreme confinement is detrimental to the animals' welfare.

• Caging animals in high densities leads to higher concentrations of animal waste and air and water pollution, as well as a greater risk of disease transmission such as Salmonella.

Contact Sierra Club's Brandi Whetstone (614-461-0734, brandi.whetstone@sierraclub.org) for more information or to help. ♦

Executive Committee Election Results

Cheers to the recently elected at-large members of the Chapter Executive Committee, Andy Betts, Mary Beth Lohse, Pat Marida, and Tony Szilagye. These members will serve two-year terms that began at the first ExCom meeting of the year this past January. They will join existing at-large members Melanie Braithwaite, David Gaines, Eileen Matias, Enid Nagel, and Bob Shields.

The Chapter Executive Committee is the primary decision-making body in the Ohio Chapter. The ExCom consists of nine at-large members elected by Chapter-wide ballot, and a representative from each of the seven Groups within the Chapter. The at-large members serve terms of two years, with either four or five terms expiring in alternating years.

As a grassroots environmental organization, the Sierra Club, by definition, depends on volunteers willing to devote their time and talent. Thanks to all who serve.

Chapter Elections Committee

Volunteers Needed!

Grassroots action is the foundation of the Sierra Club. Please help us understand which issues are most important to you and how you might like to get involved.

I am interested in getting involved in the following issues:

- Forests
- Energy
 - Coal
 - Nuclear
- Water
- Environmental Justice
- Political
- Agricultural
- General Conservation

I am interested in the following volunteer opportunities:

- Community outreach
- Fundraising
- Media
- Lobbying
- Office work
- Layout/Design

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Go to the Ohio Chapter website <http://ohio.sierraclub.org> to fill out an online form

OR

Email to Brandi Whetstone, Conservation Program Coordinator at: brandi.whetstone@sierraclub.org

OR

Clip this ad and mail to: **Sierra Club Ohio Chapter**
Attn: Volunteers Needed
131 N. High St., Suite 605
Columbus, OH 43215