

**As Introduced**

**124th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2001-2002**

**H. B. No. 3**

**REPRESENTATIVE Blasdel**

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**A BILL**

To enact section 1559.01 of the Revised Code to 1  
declare it to be the public policy of the state to 2  
establish the Clean Ohio Fund for the purpose of 3  
achieving certain goals related to the protection 4  
of the environment and preservation of the state's 5  
natural resources. 6

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 1559.01 of the Revised Code be 7  
enacted to read as follows: 8

**Sec. 1559.01.** The general assembly finds that protecting the 9  
environment and preserving the natural resources of this state are 10  
vital to the quality of life and economic development of the 11  
state. The general assembly recognizes that achieving these goals 12  
requires a commitment of financial resources. Further, the general 13  
assembly recognizes that the most efficient use of those financial 14  
resources is to provide support to and become a partner of local 15  
governments and private entities in achieving statewide goals. 16  
Therefore, it is the public policy of this state to establish the 17  
clean Ohio fund, a framework for providing financial assistance to 18  
state agencies, local governments, and private entities for the 19  
purpose of achieving all of the following: 20

(A) The redevelopment and remediation of sites that have been 21  
contaminated by past industrial activity. Such redevelopment will 22  
return previously abandoned or underutilized industrial properties 23  
to productive use, create jobs, expand the tax base for urban 24  
communities, and provide numerous environmental benefits. 25

(B) The restoration and protection of streams and watersheds 26  
through providing financing for conservation easements and 27  
acquisitions of riparian lands; 28

(C) The preservation of the state's productive and unique 29  
farmland resources through increased support for the agricultural 30  
easements program; 31

(D) The preservation of river corridors, forests, grasslands, 32  
and wetlands; 33

(E) The expansion and development of recreational trails so 34  
that the state's citizens may have access to natural resources and 35  
the many benefits that they provide. 36