

Clifford N. McLaughlin II
Trustee, Western Reserve Fish & Game Association
PO Box 2306
Niles, Ohio 44446

To the House Members of the 585 Committee;

I am a duly elected Trustee of the Western Reserve Fish & Game Association. The organization is a conservation club with about 200 active and 60 life members, and it is my responsibility to protect the assets and to uphold our bylaws. I have held this position for several years. I am employed full time and that made it impossible for me to make a statement in person. I offer this written statement instead.

As I and thousands of other Ohio citizens believe in the rights guaranteed in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, with a strong concern about protecting the Second Amendment, I expect our elected officials to uphold that same Constitution and state laws that protect the rights of law abiding citizens. Why is it that our current elected officials seem to be so quick to take away the rights of law abiding citizens to the point where I wonder if we will be able to defend ourselves even in their homes.

One point that I want to be sure gets made often enough, why not hire veterans as school defenders. A bill that would set that up is something worth supporting. If you pass House Bill 585, then those same potential and qualified security candidates and all those other veterans who took an oath and honorably served to protect the Constitution, even to the extend of dying in that service, may have acted in vain.

In closing, just remember that government is for the people and by the people, not the chosen few with the big bank accounts or narrow special interests. Elected officials take an oath to uphold the laws of this state and the Constitution. I do not believe that this bill measures up to that obligation.

Sincerely,

Clifford N. McLaughlin II
Trustee, Western Reserve Fish & Game