

Dear Senator Balderson,

My name is Steve Buckley and I'm an avid sportsman living in Hocking County. I belong to several conservation organizations such as The Ruffed Grouse Society, NRA, and Sportsmen's Alliance.

I'm here today, as an interested party, to provide my point of view on Senate Bill 257. First of all, I want to state that I love discounts, especially on my hunting and fishing equipment. I continually spend a large portion of my income either pursuing game and fish and the acquiring of the latest necessary equipment.

Being a member of various conservation clubs and organizations over the years, I've learned that my license fees are extremely important in perpetuating my outdoor passion. To that end, I've also noticed that the agency responsible for managing our fish and wildlife resources is struggling to make ends meet. There is an acute shortage of game wardens in Ohio, the wildlife areas look awful, weeds instead of good quality nesting cover for pheasants and rabbits and poor quality fishing access sites.

According to what I've heard and read in Ohio Outdoor News the Division of Wildlife is in bad shape financially. Perhaps before any discounts are offered we should look at addressing the overall financial situation. If it's necessary to have the discounts please keep them small. I've read the report from Southwick and Associates and they recommend only a 5% discount.

I'm passionate about the outdoor sports of hunting and fishing. Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Steve Buckley