

Chairman Vitale, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Charles Anderson and I raise sheep in Guernsey county, near Quaker City, Ohio and I want to thank you for your time today.

Having raised livestock all of my 56 years I have seen firsthand the damage done by wildlife and specifically, coyotes to sheep. In my area my farm has hundreds of acres formerly strip mined coal areas and now, gas well areas. Many of these areas are havens for the coyote dens and breeding areas of coyotes

Without access to all means, trapping as well as hunting, we could face even more loss to these predators. As I currently work off farm for an agricultural equipment company as well as my sheep flock, I do not have time to personally commit to watching them 24 hours per day. Coyotes are a continual threat to my flock.

I currently have 49 spring lambs on pasture and have been awoken at night by the coyote howls. To continue to raise sheep in eastern Ohio it is imperative to pass HB 553.

Myself and my fellow livestock producers need to keep several options available to protect our livestock investments. Maintaining an open season on coyotes, and keeping them exempt from a fur taker permit provides a few more "tools" to be used to protect my agricultural investments. I urge you to pass HB 553 to help us in Ohio to continue to raise livestock

I thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,  
Charles Anderson  
Quaker City, Ohio