



Whitetail
DEER FARMERS
— *Of Ohio* —

From the desk of
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To Chairman Vitale , Vice chairman Kick and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resource Committee, I am Terry Klick, Executive Director for the Whitetail Deer Farmers of Ohio and at the direction of the board was ask to provide you with some insight as to why we support HB553 and why we believe it is so important.

We as Deer farmers provide a nich to Ohioans to participate in the ag market place with small amounts of marginal land that can raise a marketable animal. We are a heavily regulated industry but we know that going in to it. I personally have been farming deer for over 25 years. My son now runs what is left of my grandparents 100 acre farm, about 20 acres, which I was able to buy when my grandparents pasted. This is a common story among deer farmers throughout the state. I can tell you that when I started deer farming coyotes were not a problem. They were not something we asked for but we now have them and must deal with them.

We do not need added restrictions to make a living. We all know that the coyote population is on the rise. We see them running in fields in the middle of the day, and many more dead along the road. We have all heard about a pet being snatched by a coyote. We feel that any restriction that limits the taking of a coyote BY ANYONE, AT ANY TIME, BY ANY MEANS is not in the best interest of our industry or any other animal husbandry group for that matter.

The only opposition that I have heard and the reason ODNR gave for recommending some change was that some none unintended animals might be targeted by mistake. That may be true! I can also tell you what is fact and that is that coyotes look to build dens near food sources such as our fawn pens or lambing paddocks or calf pastures. What about those unintended animals!

To sum it up the WDFO supports HB 553 and we believe it goes a long way to help us protect our property and our right to protect it at any time we see fit or to enlist the help of others to do the same. This a crazy time in our nation and here in OHIO and I sincerely appreciate the time you have given to this matter. If I can be of further assistance or ask other questions please don t hesitate to contact me. TERRY KCLICK EXC. DIR. WHITETAIL DEER FARMERS OF OHIO CELL 330 685 1381 EMAIL wdfoklick@gmail.com