

Chairman Vitale, Vice Chair Kick, Ranking Member Denson, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Howard Spengler and I appreciate the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 553.

I am an Angus beef producer in Monroe County and my son is in Jackson County Ohio. I am a seed stock producer- bulls and heifers for breeding purposes, Monroe County Farm Bureau President and Ohio Cattlemen member.

We have lost calves to coyote kills, each one represents \$2500 loss in that year. Our home farm borders Monroe Wild Life Area (1400 acres). Our son's farm borders Cooper Hollow Wild Life Area (5420 acres) - both are state properties. Wild Life areas are effective, they produce more wild life most concerning of which to a livestock producer are more coyotes. Our only marketable product results from live calves.

Grazing livestock production is a hillside outdoor system of Ohio's hill counties. Ohio is seeing a shortage of pasture land. A predator with no natural enemies that negatively effects our bottom line needs no advantage to expand their numbers.

A representative of the Ohio division of wildlife made the statement at Belle Valley that coyote numbers are diminishing. There is no scientific bases for this and we are seeing them every third day even in our farmyard. When coyote numbers increase, calf kills increase.

I would be happy to answer any livestock questions.