



**Proponent Testimony on House Bill 553**  
**Energy and Natural Resources Committee**  
**The Ohio House of Representatives**

Chairman Vitale, Ranking Member Denson and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Jim Chakeres and I am submitting written proponent testimony on HB 553.

On behalf of Ohio's egg, chicken and turkey farmers who are members of the Ohio Poultry Association (OPA), I would like to thank Representative Jones for sponsoring this bill that will help Ohio farmers. Ohio has more than 600 egg, turkey and chicken farmers who create more than 20,000 jobs annually and generate \$700 million in annual earnings for Ohio's economy. Ohio is also the second largest egg farming state in the nation, producing nearly 9 billion eggs annually.

Ohio's poultry producers face outside threats to operations daily. One threat to Ohio's farmers is predation. Predation is one of the largest contributors to death loss on free range poultry operations. Coyotes are increasingly the culprit in such losses. Passage of this bill will ensure responsible control of Ohio's coyote population allowing free range poultry operations to continue and even grow in Ohio.

On behalf of the OPA, I appreciate your consideration of this bill. As always, please feel free to contact me if you should have any additional questions. Ohio's poultry farmers are committed to helping grow Ohio's economy and provide safe food for our consumers. HB 553 will assist in achieving that commitment.

Respectfully,

Jim Chakeres  
Executive Vice President  
Ohio Poultry Association