

Fran Buchholzer Testimony (1 page)

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Chairman Coley, Ranking Member Craig, Members of the Government Oversight and Reform Committee and Special Guests,

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 123.

I'm Fran Buchholzer, former Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and currently a Board Member of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

I'm here today strongly supporting Senate Bill 123 Senator Dolan's and Senator Manning's proposed legislation officially naming '*Dunkleosteus terrelli*' Ohio's State Fossil Fish.

From the early discovery of Late Devonian fish fossils along the Olentangy River and the shores of Lake Erie, to *Dunkleosteus terrelli*'s unique characteristics and international fame, to his being classified and named after two Ohio paleontologists, to his most important remains still being in Ohio at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History makes *Dunkleosteus terrelli* truly an Ohio story.

The first individual who will testify is Bree Obhof. She is an amateur paleontologist, very interested in fossils, knowledgeable about *Dunkleosteus terrelli* and the inspiration for naming '*Dunkleosteus terrelli*' Ohio's Fossil Fish.

The second person to testify is paleontologist, Dr. William Hlavin, who knew the famous French paleontologist Dr. J.P. Lehman, who gave '*Dunkleosteus terrelli*' its official name. In addition, Dr. Hlavin, as Assistant Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology, worked and did research with Dr. David Dunkle when he was Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Last to testify is Harvey Webster, Ambassador of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and renowned wildlife scientist who will make concluding comments.

Thank you again for your thoughtful consideration of officially naming the unique and world famous '*Dunkleosteus terrelli*', who ruled the seas in Ohio some 360 million years ago, Ohio's State Fossil Fish.