

Finance – Corrections Subcommittee

Proponent Testimony: Proposed Non-Resident
Hunting License and Deer Tag Fee Increase

H.B. 64 Main Operating Budget FY2016-FY2017

May 21, 2015



Chairman Uecker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

My name is Matt Misicka and I am the Vice President of the Ohio Conservation Federation.

On behalf of the Ohio Conservation Federation (OCF) and the thousands of Ohio sportsmen and women that its members **Buckeye Big Bucks Club, Buckeye Firearms Association, Ducks Unlimited, Lake Erie Charter Boat Association, National Wildlife Federation, National Wild Turkey Federation, Ohio State Trappers Association, Pheasants Forever, and the Ruffed Grouse Society/American Woodcock Society** represent, I am here today to express our support for the inclusion of the proposed increase in the non-resident hunting license and deer tag fees in the FY16-17 Operating Budget.

Earlier this month, it was with a great deal of pride that OCF added its signature to the long list of more than a dozen statewide organizations and nearly 100 local sportsmen's groups in support of the proposed non-resident license fee increase.

Nationwide, Ohio is widely acknowledged as a top 10-destination state for deer hunting. OCF feels strongly that this modest increase, from \$149-\$250, is non-punitive and with the power of leveraging "user-paid" federal Wildlife Restoration funds, will benefit both in-state and out-of-state hunters, anglers, trappers, and outdoor enthusiasts and will continue to grow Ohio's reputation as a valued deer hunting destination of the highest quality.

I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today regarding our support for the non-resident Hunting license fee increase. The Ohio Conservation Federation stands ready to assist Members of this Committee, the Department of Natural Resources, the Governor, and related stakeholders in protecting and providing for the health of our wildlife, economy, and hunting, angling, and trapping heritage.

I am happy to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Matt Misicka
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