



May 20, 2015

The Honorable Senator Joe Uecker, Chair, Finance - Corrections Subcommittee

Subject: House Bill 64 - Main Operating Budget FY2016-FY2017

As President of Freeport Farmer Sportsman Club Inc., We support the sensible fee increase as proposed by the ODNR Division of Wildlife and contained in House Bill 64.

Freeport Farmer Sportsman Club Inc. recognizes that a direct financial benefit to the State of Ohio is a result of the quality of our Ohio deer herd. It provides out-of state hunters an unequaled opportunity to harvest a trophy animal.

Hunters often pay much higher fees in other states for an opportunity at much less quality animals. Non-resident deer hunters respect and relish the opportunity to hunt in Ohio and will still consider the modest increase a good value.

The recreational value that the ODNR provides and the mission of its staff cannot be understated.

The fee increase proposed within House Bill 64 is critical to the ODNR's capacity to provide matching money for the federal Pitman-Robertson plans, including range development. Without this increase the federal money and an opportunity to serve Ohio's sportsmen and women may not be achieved.

The strong influence that the ODNR has in our sport helps to strengthen the importance of the small Sportsman Clubs of Ohio. The clubs are able to work with the ODNR to maintain the wonderful opportunities that exist in our Great State.

As President of Freeport Farmer Sportsman Club Inc. I respectfully urge you to support House Bill 64 as proposed.

Regards

Travis Doane, President
Freeport Farmer Sportsman Club Inc.
80950 Davis Street
Tippecanoe, Ohio 44699