

New Athens Sportsman Club
33801 Lear Industrial Parkway
Avon, Ohio 44011

May 19, 2015

To: Senator Joe Uecker, Chair, Finance - Corrections Subcommittee

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

As President of the New Athens Sportsman Club, I wanted to send a letter of support in favor of the fee increase as proposed by the Division of Wildlife and contained in House Bill 64.

We as active hunters in Ohio recognize that this is a direct financial benefit to the State of Ohio and is a result of the quality of our Ohio deer program. It provides out-of state hunters an unequalled 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. I can honestly attest to this as we have 6 current active members of our club from surrounding states that hunt here in Ohio year after year.

As Hunters of this great state we appreciate the significance of a financially strong Division of Wildlife. The Division of Wildlife is one of the few agencies in Ohio that supports itself through the initiatives of its management, dedicated to sportsmen, women and youth of Ohio.

As Hunters we also understand the importance of the Federal excise tax administered by Pitman-Robertson. For future generation it is imperative that we keep our Division of Wildlife financially strong.

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

The fee increase proposed within House Bill 64 is critical to the Division of Wildlife'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, women and youth may not be achieved.

As the President of the New Athens Sportsman Club and an active Resident Hunter of the State of Ohio I respectfully urge you all to support House Bill 64 as it is proposed.

Thank you for your time, respectfully

Sean A. Boutin

President, New Athens Sportsman Club