

May 19, 2015

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

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

On Behalf of the members of the Old Trail Hunt Club of Muskingum County, I would like to express our full support of any measure to increase the fee for Non-Residents to hunt in our great state. As a lifelong resident and hunter I know firsthand the difference in price for myself and other Ohio hunters to hunt out of state as opposed to those coming to Ohio to harvest one of our Trophy Whitetails, Turkey, and other game.

Compared to other states, Ohio is grossly undervalued and a bargain. Although the increase from \$149 to \$250 for a Non-Resident license and permit is a step in the right direction, it is still not enough and we hope to see the fees for Non-Residents continue to increase to match those of other states with the same quality hunting.

It is through the efforts of the ODNR that Ohio is one of the top destination states for trophy hunters. The substantial revenues raised through this increase will help insure the ODNR has the financial resources necessary to continue to better their efforts to manage our wildlife here in Ohio and keep our great state at the top of hunting destinations.

An increase in Non-Resident license and permit fee is long overdue. 2004 is the last time the fees have increased and it is time to make some changes. Talking with other Ohio residents and hunters the support for this increase is overwhelming and strong.

Please do all you can to make this happen and help Ohio remain a top destination for out of state hunters. Although more can and should be done, this is a big step in the right direction.

Respectfully,

Barry T. Browning

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