



WESTERN OHIO FISH & GAME CLUB

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May 18, 2015

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

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

As CEO of Western Ohio Fish & Game (WOF&G), I support the sensible fee increase as proposed by the ODNR Division of Wildlife and contained in House Bill 64.

WOF&G 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 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.

WOF&G appreciates the significance of a financial strong ODNR Division of Wildlife. The ODNR is one of the few agencies in Ohio that supports itself through the initiatives of its management, dedicated sportsmen and women and USFWS as a result of Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson programs. For future generations it is imperative that we keep our ODNR financially strong.

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 Pittman-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.

As CEO of Western Ohio Fish & Game I respectfully urge you to support House Bill 64 as proposed.

Respectfully Submitted

John Mueller, CEO

Western Ohio Fish & Game