

**Ohio House Committee on Agriculture and Conservation**  
**Representative Michael Sheehy**  
**H.B. 484 Sponsor Testimony**  
**February 15, 2022**

Chairman Koehler, Vice-Chair Creech, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide sponsor testimony in support of House Bill 484 and to designate the Lake Erie Walleye as the State Fish of Ohio.

Our office was contacted by a Ben Orner, a reporter for NBC4 WCMH-TV in Columbus, a few months ago to let us know that Ohio is one of three states without a designated state fish. NBC4 conducted an online poll for viewers to nominate and vote for which fish they think best represents the state. Of the nine nominations NBC4 received, the Walleye won with 274, or 27.5% of votes cast. The yellow perch and smallmouth bass rounded out the top three, with 207 and 205 votes, respectively.

While many of us associate the walleye as a Lake Erie product, these fish can be found throughout Ohio. Walleye are still found in the Ohio River, several of Lake Erie's larger tributaries, and are stocked in reservoirs throughout the state. The walleye is integral to Ohio's culture and economy. Representative Sobecki and I are proud to call ourselves fans of the Toledo Walleye ice hockey team in Toledo, OH.

Thank you for your consideration. My joint sponsor will now share more details about the bill and the Walleye's impact on the great State of Ohio.