



*Working together for Ohio farmers to advance
agriculture and strengthen our communities.*

**Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
S.J.R. 3 Proponent Testimony
Jenna Reese, Director of State Policy
November 16, 2021**

Chair Schaffer, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to support SJR 3 and to Senator O'Brien for sponsoring the legislation.

As Ohio's largest general farm organization, Ohio Farm Bureau represents many landowners across the state. As such, we have a continuing interest in a variety of wildlife issues that affect our members. We have a substantial amount of member-developed policy on wildlife issues, which very clearly supports a constitutional amendment that ensures the right to hunt, trap and fish in the State of Ohio.

There are few topics that elicit the kind of turnout we see at deer herd management meetings for our members. Farming operations are constantly suffering crop and livestock damage from wildlife and growing populations of deer and other wildlife are becoming a significant problem for many of our members. Hunting is an important method to control populations and minimize their negative impacts. Farm Bureau members are all too familiar with the millions of dollars in crop damage wildlife causes every year and that Ohio has many automobile accidents caused by deer collisions.

We would like to ask you to clarify that trapping would be considered a traditional method of harvesting wildlife as part of this resolution. Farm Bureau policy opposes restricting current trapping methods, so we believe trapping should be listed with hunting and fishing specifically since it is unclear if trapping would be protected as a traditional method to harvest wildlife.

Like many Ohioans, Farm Bureau members also enjoy hunting, trapping, and fishing as a family pastime and hobby and recognize its great heritage in this state. Preserving these practices are in the best interest of the public, and we appreciate this resolution's effort to do so. Thank you again for your time, and I will answer any questions.