

## Proponent Testimony for S.J.R. 3

Chair Schaffer, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Fedor, and Members of the Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Senate Joint Resolution 3, a proposed amendment to our state constitution to codify Ohioans' God-given right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife.

My name is Judi Phelps and I work and reside in Vinton County, one of 32 Ohio counties located in Appalachia, which is also the least populous county in the state. Our county is ranked among the most impoverished, lacking in many emergency and public safety resources, while also being in one of the most remote and rugged areas of Ohio which includes a portion of Wayne National Forest. As such, we have a culture of self-sufficiency and conservation through fishing, hunting, animal husbandry, and agriculture. We take care of the land, and it takes care of us.

I am also a small business owner of On Guard Defense Training Center & Shooting Range. We partner each year with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Hocking County and Vinton County Soil and Water Conservation Districts to offer free Hunter Education courses at our facility. We teach adults and children about gun safety, hunter safety, Ohio hunting rules and regulations, how to be good stewards of the land and prepare them to obtain their hunting and/or fishing licenses. We take pride in helping to pass down to our youth the heritage of living off the land and preserving our natural resources.

Finally, there are numerous organizations including *Hunters for the Hungry*, comprised of hunters, meat processors, and others that work together to donate thousands of deer each year to help provide venison to homeless shelters, food banks, and soup kitchens to feed Ohioans in need.

Hunting, fishing, and harvesting wildlife in a legal, ethical, and humane manner is a way of life for most Appalachians. I respectfully request your support of Senate Joint Resolution 3 to preserve those rights for all Ohioans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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