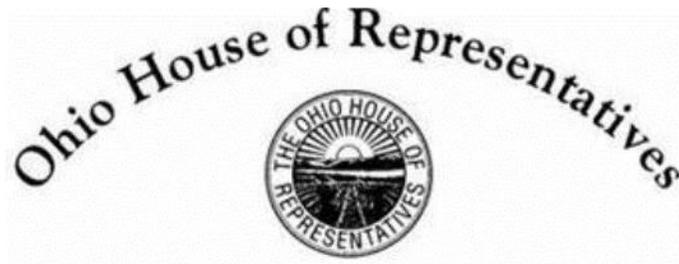


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**State Representative Darrell Kick**

Sponsor Testimony on House Bill 162

May 9, 2023

Chairman Creech, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the House Agriculture Committee, thank you for allowing us to come before you today and present sponsor testimony on House Bill 162, which will recognize several federal agriculture days in state law.

Ohio ranks first nationally in the production of swiss cheese, second in egg production and third in tomatoes and pumpkins. Ohio is fifth in the nation in bell pepper yield, sixth in sweet corn and cucumbers and eighth in the number of chickens sold.

There are about 75,000 farms in Ohio. Nearly 90 percent of those farms are run by families or individuals with roughly 2,000 of these farms registered as Ohio Historic Family Farms. Food and agriculture together constitute the state's largest industry, contributing more than \$105 billion annually to the state's economy and providing jobs to one in seven Ohioans.

As a sixth generation farmer, I have lived my entire life in and around the agricultural community. Farmers work hard every day to provide the products that we all rely on without seeking recognition for their efforts. This legislation provides an opportunity to finally give these individuals the thanks that they deserve.

Agriculture is a vital part of our state and we look forward to the opportunity to humbly recognize the hard work of Ohio's dedicated farmers. I thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony and respectfully ask for your support of this legislation. We'd be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell D. Kick".

Darrell Kick  
State Representative  
98<sup>th</sup> House District