



OHIO VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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The Honorable Don Jones
Chairman, Ohio House Agriculture Committee
77 S High Street, Floor 11
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Proponent Testimony on House Bill 503

Chairman Jones, Vice Chair Klopfenstein, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the Ohio House Agriculture Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on HB 503. This bill prohibits the feeding of garbage to swine, stops the importation of feral swine into Ohio, and prohibits the hunting of feral swine in the state. The Ohio Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) supports this legislation, which was crafted in consultation with the Ohio Pork Council, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Feral swine are known to carry at least 30 viral and bacterial diseases, including African Swine Fever, and nearly 40 parasites that can be transmitted to humans and wildlife.¹ Left unmitigated, these viruses and diseases can be transmitted to Ohio's pets, livestock, and even people through the handling and butchering of feral swine.

By outlawing the hunting and importation of feral swine into the state, Ohio will continue to be a national leader in the agriculture and animal health industries. This bill is a significant step in the right direction for Ohio, and OVMA is proud to support this effort. We thank Reps. Jones and Peterson for bringing this measure before this committee, and we encourage you to adopt this legislation swiftly. If there are any questions from the committee or your staff, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Christopher Henney, CAE
Executive Director

¹ United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/operational-wildlife-activities/feral-swine/damage-people-pets>