



Proponent Testimony – HB 503
Ohio House Agriculture Committee
Luke Crumley, Director of Public Policy & Sustainability

Chairman Jones, Vice Chair Klopfenstein, Ranking Member Brent, and other members of the House Agriculture Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 503. This is important legislation to contain and counter Ohio's growing feral swine infestation. The Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association is pleased to join our partners from across the agriculture industry in support of this measure.

Feral swine are a uniquely damaging invasive species with few natural predators. Unchecked growth of the feral swine population throughout the United States impacts agricultural production, the environment, human health, and public safety.

Successful grain farming in Ohio depends on strong yields. Grain producers are constantly innovating to maximize yield on ever-shrinking agricultural lands, and any disruption to yield is a cause for concern. Feral swine pose a direct threat to successful grain production by damaging crops and fields through their natural behavior. Feeding, rooting, trampling, and wallowing combine to disturb the soil, leading to erosion and invasive plant growth that counter the good work Ohio's farmers pursue to promote water quality and soil health.

House Bill 503 is a necessary step forward in addressing the harmful impacts of feral swine. Prohibitions against transporting, possessing, or releasing wild boar or feral swine into the wild are commonsense policy measures for Ohio. Containing and countering this invasive species will protect grain farming in Ohio and secure the food and fuel production chains that employ tens of thousands of workers around the state. Therefore, on behalf of the members of the Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association, I urge you to support HB 503.