

Testimony on HJR 5
Before the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
December 13, 2023

I am Dave Staley, a private business owner and hunter and fisherman. I appreciate the opportunity to share with this committee my reasons for opposing the creation of a constitutional amendment to hunt and fish. I believe this effort would limit the management of wildlife by.

The State of Ohio was founded on 1, March 1803.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources came into existence on 7, October 1949.

What was the catalyst for this agency's formation 146 years later?

It is my belief a look back to the early days of the United States and the harvesting of species to extinction, near extinction was the primary reason for the birth of an agency I hold in high regard. The officers of the ODNR do an outstanding job managing the most precious resource in the State, the Flora and Fauna.

I feel the passing of this bill will undermine the tireless work the officers of the ODNR of the past 75 years will be for naught. Plunging the State into the proverbial dark ages, and endangering what I believe to be OHIO's greatest resource.

Why should Ohio elevate hunting, fishing, and trapping of wildlife to the level of a constitutional right? Ohio residents already have broad access to nearly unlimited hunting, fishing, and trapping opportunities. I enjoy hunting and fishing, and am glad that Ohio has an abundance of game and fish and the DNR does the job of maintaining healthy populations. But hunting and fishing is not a fundamental right that belongs in the state constitution. I oppose HJR5.

Thank you.