

Committees
Chair: Economic and Workforce
Development;
Finance;
Government Oversight;
Constitutional Resolutions



Columbus Office
Vern Riffe Center
77 S. High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111
(614) 644-6011

Rep89@ohiohouse.gov

D. J. Swearingen
State Representative

Sponsor Testimony
HB 599

Chair Wiggam, Vice-Chair Dean, my Joint Sponsor and Ranking Member Brennan, and members of the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for allowing us to offer sponsor testimony on H.B. 599.

Already considered the unofficial Ohio state fish, this legislation would make the Walleye our official fish. Ohio benefits from our abundant population of walleye - with our portion of Lake Erie known as the walleye capital of the world. Many flock here to enjoy this natural treasure, assisting the state's economy considerably. In fact, over 70% of Lake Erie's over 1 billion dollar sport fishing economic generation is related to walleye fishing.

While not just a blessing for us financially, this fish is also a blessing for us culturally. Thousands of hours are spent by Ohioans and non-Ohioans alike, enjoying this safe and sustainable hobby. Fishing this species brings many to Lake Erie, one of our state's most beautiful features, promoting healthy lakeside activity with friends and family.

When anglers in-state and out-of-state alike think of Ohio fishing - they think of Lake Erie walleye fishing. Rep. Brennan and I hope this legislation assists in promoting that association. Thank you for your consideration, we are happy to answer any questions.