

6/20/2024

State and Local Government Committee, House Bill 599

Dear Ohio General Assembly:

I am writing this in support of Sean Brennan and House Bill 599 to designate the Walleye as the official fish of this wonderful state of Ohio.

My name is Nathan Vekas, and I am an avid supporter of the Walleye.

All my life I have enjoyed what Lake Erie has to offer -- from its cool water swims on a hot summer day, to skipping stones along the shore as the sun sets, even fishing with loved ones at our numerous fishing holes, and to enjoying a fresh cooked Walleye dinner.

For too long, this great state has been officially fishless. We are 1 of 3 states left in this Union that is *still* fishless. Currently, we follow the path of Indiana and Iowa.

Compared to those two, we have greater access to a naturally occurring waterway, with 316 miles of shoreline. Indiana trails way behind at just a measly 45 miles of shoreline. Hell, Iowa is just plain landlocked. Let us not lose this race and be the last state in the Union without an official state fish.

There are a lot of things that make Ohio a wonderful place to call home, designating the Walleye as the official state fish will just add to that expansive list. Let us give this Great Lake a Great Fish!

Sincerely,

Nathan Vekas