

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 03-17-23

Name: Jay Peterson

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization

Organization (If Applicable): League of Ohio Sportsmen

Position/Title: President

Address: 2400 Briggs Road

City: Columbus State: Ohio Zip: 43223

Best Contact Telephone: 740-391-0047 Email: jaypeterson54@yahoo.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes  No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): House Bill 33

Specific Issue: Ohio Division of Wildlife Operating Appropriations

Are you testifying as a: Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes  No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 5 to 10 minutes

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

Our Organization is in full support of the Ohio Division of Natural Resources Requests in House Bill 33. As per our stated Letter attached. Thanks Jay Peterson

*Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.*



# League of Ohio Sportsmen

*Established 1908*

**Proponent Testimony, House Bill 33  
House Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture, Development, and Natural Resources  
Jay Peterson, President, League of Ohio Sportsmen  
March 21, 2023**

Chairman Jones, Ranking Member Troy and the distinguished members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture, Development, and Natural Resources: The League of Ohio Sportsmen would like to express our support for the continuation of the H2Ohio fund, and for other proposed changes benefiting the Ohio Division of Wildlife within House Bill 33, the 2024-2025 Operating Appropriations.

My name is Jay Peterson, and I am the president of the League of Ohio Sportsmen, one of Ohio's oldest conservation organizations. For 115 years our members and member clubs have worked to be good stewards of our natural resources as we fish, hunt, camp, boat, and enjoy the beauty of our great state. Our organization continues to partner with the Division of Wildlife, which is celebrating 150 years of conservation and wildlife management, and with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

One of those partnership projects is H2Ohio. H2Ohio continues to be a vehicle to bring all stakeholders to the table, including farmers, agribusiness, local governments, conservationists, and environmentalists, working together to find long-term, science-based solutions. H2Ohio's Best Management Practices are proving to be key in helping farmers keep nutrients in the soil where they belong. These Best Management Practices, that include cover crops, buffer strips, and using farm implements equipped with precision technology, are not only helping the Western Lake Erie Basin, but are also working statewide. These practices, particularly cover crops and buffer strips, create amazing wildlife habitat while helping to curb runoff nutrients and protect the health of waterways throughout the state.

In the Department of Natural Resources/Division of Wildlife appropriation, there are a number of new items we want to express our support for, specifically:

- Proposed language allowing non-resident students enrolled in Ohio public colleges or universities to purchase licenses and permits at the resident rate. This change will remove a potential barrier and encourage young people entering the state to participate in hunting and fishing activities.
- GRF Line Item 725461, Conservation and Habitat Protection: a \$2.5M expenditure each year, for fiscal years 2024 and 2025, for habitat protection and conservation.
- GRF Line Item 725520, Special Projects, \$2M is for Project WILD, wildlife-based conservation, and environmental education for youth. The Project WILD and Aquatic WILD programs involve young people and wildlife, and are a proven formula for generating interest and participation in outdoor activities. These are supplementary education programs emphasizing awareness, appreciation, and understanding of wildlife and natural resources. These programs include teacher training workshops that reach over 2,000 educators annually.
- and the proposal to transfer \$511,000 of General Revenue Fund monies to fund 7015, Wildlife Conservation, on July 1 of each year (fiscal year 2024 and 2025) to offset the cost of payments the Division of Wildlife makes to counties in place of property taxes. The Division of Wildlife is being a good neighbor, especially to our local police and fire agencies, and to local schools in the counties where the Division owns land. That said, these payments take money away from wildlife conservation and management programs. This transfer helps the Division to continue their mission while helping fund county and local government and schools.

I would like to thank you for your time today, and am happy to answer any questions that you have.