

The Ohio Senate  
Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
Senator Tim Schaeffer, Chairman

Chairman Senator Schaeffer and committee members,

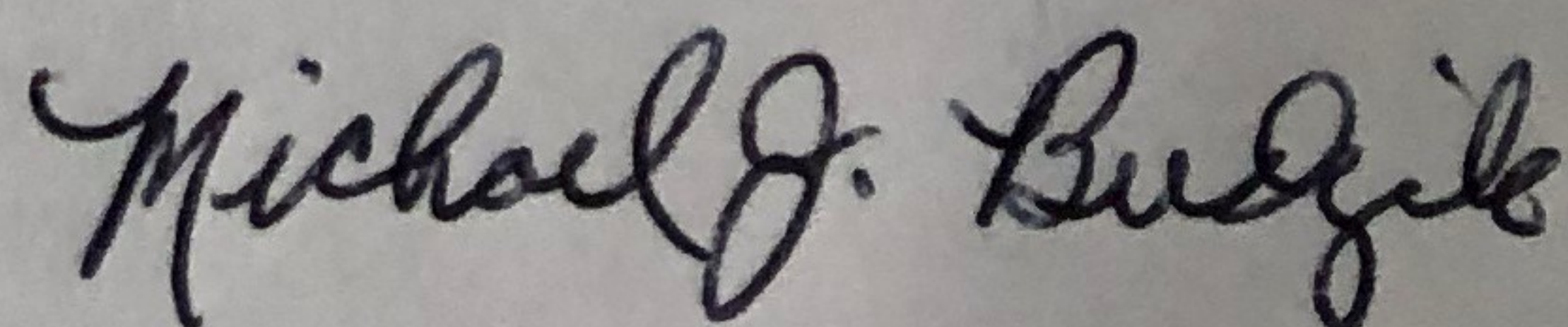
I am submitting this testimony on Hb33 the appropriation for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. I most respectfully urge you to restore the \$29 million dollar budget cut from the Ohio House of Representatives. This would include cuts made to the Division of Wildlife, Forestry, Parks and Watercraft, Engineering and Real Estate and Land Management.

As you are aware pre-Covid, hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, hiking, water based recreation and conservation were big business in our state. However, as many of us learned and experienced during Covid and post-Covid, getting "outdoors" was extremely important, if not critical to our personal well-being. This has been thoroughly documented by our Health and Medical professionals.

Your favorable response in restoring these cuts will enable ODNR to meet this critical challenge to our precious Natural Resources; not just enhancing facilities but helping hundreds of thousands of Ohioans as well as its visitors cope with the lingering stress that now spans across our population.

In my verbal testimony I will highlight these specific examples.

Most respectfully,



Michael J. Budzik

Ohio Sportsman Coalition