

James Harris  
Senior Regional Representative  
Ohio Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever  
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Washington Court House, OH 43160

Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
May 9, 2023



**Re: Interested Party Testimony for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources FY24-25 Budget (HB 33)**

Greetings Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chairman Landis, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, Senator O'Brien, and Senator Wilkin.

I am writing today to express concerns about the cuts being proposed in HB33 that impact the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) budget. I am also representing Ohio's 5,700 Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever members, and 32 community-based chapters that are made up of dedicated volunteers and supporters that do great things for our state's wildlife and natural resources. Our work is not done alone, and we depend on our ability to use our volunteer raised funding to match and partner with state agencies like the ODNR, federal agencies, and other conservation partners. These funding cuts will impact our ability to continue to enhance and restore wildlife habitat, that in turn provide many other ecosystem benefits, such as improving water and air quality that all Ohioans benefit from.

In addition, we know that Ohioans depend on robust funding in order to have the opportunity to participate in the outdoors and enjoy Ohio's abundant natural resources. We are concerned that the cuts proposed in HB33 will limit hunting and other natural resources based outdoor recreation and education opportunities.

**We request that the General Assembly restore ODNR's funding to the levels outlined in the Governor's budget as introduced.**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this very important issue. We would appreciate a strong consideration of our request.

If we can be of any further assistance or answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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*Since 1982 Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever's mission has been to conserve pheasants, quail, and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public access, education, and conservation advocacy.*