



10 May, 2023

**To:** Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chairman Landis, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Members O'Brien and Wilkin of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

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

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chairman Landis, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Members O'Brien and Wilkin, on behalf of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and our nearly 9,000 members in Ohio, I am writing today to voice the strongest possible level of support for fully funding the Ohio Department of Natural Resources at the levels proposed by Governor DeWine in the 2024-2025 Biennium Budget.

The NWTF is a 501c3 grassroots conservation organization whose mission is dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of our hunting heritage. Our mission is the foundation for everything we do, however, the success of our organization and the ability to positively impact wildlife habitat, our waterways, and wildlife populations, hinges on the support from our state agency partners including the Ohio DNR. We urge you to consider restoring the budget for the Ohio DNR to ensure they maintain the resources necessary to effectively and safely manage the health of our state's great natural resources. This funding plays a vital role to providing and enhancing recreational opportunities such as hunting, trapping, boating, and fishing, which generates several million dollars to the state's economy annually. Furthermore, the work of the Ohio DNR to promote sound conservation practices on private and public lands improves our air and water quality, and aids in carbon storage and sequestration. The economic and ecological benefits make restoring the budget for the Ohio DNR to the levels previously introduced by Governor DeWine a wise investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The NWTF encourages you to take the recommendations of sportsmen and women into consideration during budget deliberations. **We request that the General Assembly restore ODNR's GRF funding to the levels from the Governor's *as introduced* budget.** If I can be of any further assistance or answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Conservation,

Paul Campbell  
Director of Development  
The National Wild Turkey Federation  
[pcampbell@nwtf.net](mailto:pcampbell@nwtf.net)  
614-961-7929