



## **State Representative Ron Ferguson**

*House General Government Committee  
Sponsor Testimony for House Joint Resolution 1  
February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

Chair Ray, Vice Chair Fischer, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the House General Government Committee: thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Joint Resolution 1.

HJR 1 is a re-introduction of HJR 5 from the last GA, which favorably passed the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee. HJR 1 proposes to enact Section 23 of Article I of the Ohio Constitution to establish a constitutional right to hunt and fish. Should HJR 1 pass the legislature, it would appear on the November 2026 general election ballot.

Hunting and fishing are more than just recreational activities—they're deeply rooted in our Country's heritage. Despite this history, many states have taken a proactive approach to ensuring these activities are protected for future generations. Since 1996, 23 states have amended their constitution to include the right to hunt and fish. The most recent state was Florida, which enshrined the right last November with 67% of the vote.

Securing the right to hunt and fish has been viewed as a necessary step for many states due to the rise in anti-hunting legislation, as well as costly litigation. For example, efforts were made in Oregon to place a statewide statute banning hunting on the [2022 and 2024 ballots](#). Luckily, both initiatives fell short; however, another initiative has already been introduced and is gathering signatures for the [2026 ballot](#). Passing HJR 1 ensures that hunting and fishing are preserved for future generations of Ohioans.

Chair Ray, Vice Chair Fischer, Ranking Member Brent, and members of the House General Government Committee: thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HJR 1. I will now allow my colleague and joint sponsor, Representative Santucci to further explain this legislation.