

I would like to begin my testimony today by thanking Chairman Jones, Vice Chair Robb Blasdel, Ranking Member Rogers, and the rest of the Natural Resources Committee for allowing me the opportunity to testify on behalf of House Bill 96 today.

My name is Dan Donoghue, a lifelong resident of Mahoning County, and an avid outdoorsman and conservationist. I am a lifelong member and Trustee of the New Middletown Farmer and Sportsmen Club, Vice President of The Mahoning County Duck Hunting and Conservation Club, Vice President of the Mahoning County Federation of Sportsmen Clubs, Trustee of the Columbiana County Federation and Conservation Club, and finally a Club Representative to the Trumbull County Federation of Sportsmen Club. I wear many hats, but the common denominator amongst them is the passion for wildlife conservation. The connections I have made, and partnerships formed, have allowed knowledge and understanding of what our Sportsmen and Sportswomen from Lake Erie to the Ohio River value and benefit from.

Under the DeWine/Husted administration and more importantly our most recent Legislatures, many could consider the work done thus far amongst the more promising times for ODNR Division of Wildlife, with House Bill 96 helping to close the gap. The leaps and bounds that have been made are enormous, enduring almost 17 years without a licensing price increase prior, and now aligning the experience and expense for all sportsmen and sportswomen across the midwestern states. Beginning with residential permit and licensing fee increases, this is hopefully a final step to level the field for non-residents benefiting from Ohio's natural resource management, use of hunting opportunities in wildlife areas, and vast fishing opportunities in our waters.

Traditionally the majority of Sportsmen and Sportswomen are always more than willing to understand to pay their fair share. To increase the price of Non-Residential licensing will not deter out of state Sportsmen and Sportswomen from coming to the great state of Ohio to enjoy our abundant and fruitful natural resources.

I would now like to touch the portion of this bill that is in motion to expand the usage of gift certificates, as we all know that gift certificates are more popular than ever these days. The expansion of gift certificates would allow a grandparent the opportunity to purchase a gift certificate for their grandchild to in turn purchase a Wild Ohio magazine or Apparel to reflect the great Buckeye States hunting and fishing opportunities.

Currently, the Oil and Gas signing bonus and future royalties' deposits into the State Land Royalty Fund (Let's try to move these funds quicker to where they are allocated to go). Once deposited into this State Land Royalty fund, ODNR Director Mertz currently has to then request for the funds to be transferred back to the Department fund, to which a further appropriation approval is always needed by the Division in order to utilize those

dollars. In effort to simplify this process, and eliminate unnecessary added movement of funds, the Division of Wildlife's share of oil and gas payments should deposit directly into the Wildlife Fund, where checks and balances still remain through the budget process or the controlling board for the Division of Wildlife to access. In doing so, this additional funding can be comingled with revenue generated through ODNR properties. The Division is mandated, pursuant to Chapter 1531 and Chapter 1533 of the Revised Code (ORC 1533.28), to use these funds for the administration of the division. Eliminating the possibility of diverting funds jeopardizing eligibility to accessing more than \$25million in Sport Fish and Wildlife Trust Funds dedicated to wildlife and their habitats is the goal, with the resolution being in minimizing the steps the funds need to go through.

I respectfully thank you for your time today.

Dan Donoghue