

Larry S. Moore
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Jamestown, OH 45335
4 March 2025

House Natural Resources Committee

The Honorable Don Jones, Chair
The Honorable Monica Robb Blasdel, Vice-Chair
The Honorable Elgin Rogers, Jr., Ranking Member

H. B. No. 96 Creates Appropriations for Fiscal Years 2026-2027

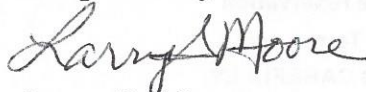
Thank you for this opportunity to present my support for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife (DoW) budget. The DeWine Administration, under the leadership of Director Mary Mertz, and with strong bipartisan support from the Ohio General Assembly has a solid record of conservation. Among the success stories are the H2Ohio program and the acquisition of the Appalachian Wildlife Area. I am grateful for that support and progress.

I support the increased fees for out-of-state hunting and fishing licenses. Ohio has a world class Whitetail Deer herd. Lake Erie is regarded as the "Walleye Capitol of the World." Both attract out-of-state hunters and anglers. I travel to neighboring Kentucky to both hunt and fish. Charging those who come to Ohio to hunt and fish a fee commensurate with the fees Ohioans pay to hunt and fish other states is reasonable.

H.B. 96 also contains changes to how the oil and gas money may be processed. These changes are completely unacceptable to me. I believe they will be universally opposed by sportsmen. The wildlife areas were purchased with dollars generated by sportsmen activities. The areas have been managed for all Ohioans by the DoW using sportsmen generated funds. Guarantees were made to sportsmen to support the initial development of drilling on public lands. Those were put into law to ensure the monies were promptly returned to the ODNR division responsible for managing the public land. The funds are to be transferred from the state treasury to the agency within thirty days of receipt. The agency could then use the money for their mission. To date, the Ohio treasury has not transferred the funds to the Division of Wildlife. This is a violation of current law.

There is both a moral and ethical basis for these funds to be returned to the managing agency. I hope this committee will agree and support sportsmen by striking the proposed oil and gas changes in H.B. 96.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry S. Moore". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Larry S. Moore