



# League of Ohio Sportsmen

*Established 1908*

**Proponent Testimony, House Bill 96  
Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
Jay Peterson, President, League of Ohio Sportsmen  
May 14, 2025**

Good morning, Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Koehler, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and the distinguished members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Jay Peterson, and I am the President of the League of Ohio Sportsmen, one of Ohio's oldest conservation organizations. For over 117 years, our members have worked to be good stewards of our natural resources as we fish, hunt, camp, boat, and enjoy the beauty of our great state. Our organization continues to partner with the Division of Wildlife on conservation and wildlife management projects.

One of those partnership projects is H2Ohio. H2Ohio's Best Management Practices are key in helping farmers keep nutrients in the soil where they belong. These Best Management Practices, that include cover crops, buffer strips, and using farm implements equipped with precision technology, are not only helping the Western Lake Erie Basin, but are also working statewide. These practices, including cover crops, buffer strips, and wetland restoration, create amazing wildlife habitat while helping to clean and filter nutrient runoff and protect the health of waterways throughout the state.

The League of Ohio Sportsmen would also like to express our support for the operating budget for the Division of Wildlife within Senate Bill 96. We support the nonresident license fee increase. Hunting is important to us, and we want to make sure prices are fair for all sportsmen. Increasing nonresident license prices will allow the Division of Wildlife to continue providing services that we enjoy, like maintaining public hunting grounds and keeping a stable deer population.

The League of Ohio Sportsmen also supports oil and gas drilling on state wildlife lands. The revenue from oil and gas drilling should go to the Division of Wildlife. Sportsmen's dollars were used to buy these lands for wildlife recreation opportunities. Any revenue generated from those properties should be used for the same purpose. We like our wildlife officers and having places to take future generations to learn to hunt and fish. The revenue from oil and gas drilling on state wildlife lands will help continue this work for years to come.

Thank you for your time today, and I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.