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State Representative

Ohio's 82nd House District

HB 65, Sponsor Testimony: Enact the Agriculture Appreciation Act

Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee – May 27, 2025

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Koehler, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, we appreciate the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 65.

This legislation recognizes, several federal agriculture days in state law, including: FFA Week, 4-H week, Stormwater Awareness Week, Soil Health Week, Agriculture Day, and Farmer's Day. These commemorative days will serve as a way to teach the next generation the importance of agriculture and encourage them to pursue careers in Ohio's largest industry.

I know personally how much 4-H and FFA have had a dramatic impact on my life. Both my wife and I were members, and our children went on to be 4-H and FFA members as well. The valuable lessons they learned through these experiences inspired them to pursue careers in agriculture and it is my hope that my grandchildren will follow in their footsteps.

For those less familiar with the organizations, they have been around for around a hundred years and 4-H was founded in Clark County, Ohio in 1902. I believe they can be best summarized with 4-H's motto "To make

the best better.” They both teach the important lessons of hard work, service and civic duty and their alumni span from local farmers to former Presidents of the United States.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony and respectfully ask for your support of this legislation. Thank you all for your time and I will pass things over to my joint sponsor Representative Peterson.