



Chairwoman Roegner and members of the committee:

My name is Dan Cabela, and I serve as Executive Director of the Cabela Family Foundation.

For generations, my family has been deeply committed to promoting outdoor recreation and conservation—not just in America, but across the globe. From founding Cabela's as a beacon for sportsmen to our foundation's partnerships in sustainable wildlife projects, including the largest reintroduction of lions to any open ecosystem in history, we have championed the "hard truths" of conservation: that responsible hunting and fishing are essential to preserving ecosystems, supporting communities, and ensuring biodiversity for future generations. SJR 8 aligns perfectly with this legacy, and I am grateful to Senator Stephen Huffman for introducing it and to you, Chairwoman Roegner, for your support in advancing this vital measure.

At their core, hunting and fishing preserve family traditions that bind us to nature. Growing up in the Cabela family, I learned these values early—patience, perseverance, and respect for wildlife—passed down through generations. They teach our youth to be environmental stewards, fostering a global appreciation for sustainable practices that we've supported from American prairies to African savannas.

These traditions also bolster food security. In Ohio, hunters donated 1,157 deer last year through state programs, yielding 50 pounds of venison per deer and over 200 meals for the needy, distributed by 79 charitable organizations. This self-sufficiency mirrors our foundation's international efforts to empower communities with nutritious, wild-harvested resources amid growing global food challenges.

Critically, sportsmen fund conservation. Through the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts, Ohio received nearly \$32 million in 2023—\$23.5 million for wildlife and \$8.4 million for fisheries—self-imposed taxes on gear that sustain habitats. Nationally, hunters contribute \$3.4 billion yearly, embodying the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation that our family has upheld globally.

In closing, SJR 8 is a proactive safeguard for Ohio's outdoor legacy, echoing my family's enduring commitment to conservation that spans continents. By passing it, you honor generations of sportsmen, secure economic vitality, and ensure our children inherit thriving wild places. Let us act now—protect these rights forever, for Ohio and the world. Thank you; I welcome your questions.

Respectfully,

Dan Cabela