

Good afternoon ladies, gentlemen, honorable elected officials:

My name is Christopher Rankin. I come before you today as a small business owner, a minister, a firearms hobbyist, and most importantly - a fellow Ohioan - to offer testimony supporting SJR 3. I am a proud graduate of the Boler School of Business at John Carroll University in Cleveland, where I earned a Bachelor of Science in economics, and have since earned a living in management consulting. This expertise has shaped the perspective that I offer you today.

Many of you know that hunting and fishing are popular through Ohio and indeed pretty much everywhere. These activities offer recreation, relaxation, essential food, economical methods of deer population control, and most importantly... a really good bowl of venison chili.

But I didn't come today to talk to you about food. Instead, I'd like to discuss the economic impact that hunting and fishing have for our state. Earlier this year the National Shooting Sports Foundation released a report detailing this impact across all 50 states. This indicated that more than 12,000 jobs resulting in almost \$560 million of wages exist right here in our great state alone as a result of the firearms industry. All of this generates over \$202 million in taxes annually - money used to educate our children, repair our roads, run our wonderful parks, and, yes, even pay your salaries.

But it's not just the National Shooting Sports Foundation that says this, and these types of impacts don't just happen once - they occur year over year. Consider another study done in 2018 by Hunting Works for Ohio, which estimated that outdoorsmen and hunting brought a total of \$1.4 billion into Ohio's economy. The report further estimates that 553,000 people hunted in Ohio that year and generated \$97 million in state and local taxes as a result.

After looking at these reports, there is little doubt that all Ohioans benefit from hunting and fishing throughout our state - either directly or indirectly. It is vital that this revenue stream for our state be protected, and that Ohio's businesses - particularly the thousands of small businesses throughout the state that provide goods and services related to hunting and fishing - be protected as well.

One of the most direct and effective ways that you can do this is precisely what you're doing now - starting a process to amend our state's constitution to give all Ohioans the right to hunt and fish. Let's face it: this amendment gets the job done for our hunters, preserves an essential activity for Ohioans to gather food, boosts thousands of Ohio's small businesses, and keeps tax money coming to the state - all without costing taxpayers a single dime.

This may very well be one of the most important actions you take in your career as a legislator. Millions for our economy, thousands of jobs, tax revenue secured, no cost to us, and yes... great bowls of chili.

I'd like to conclude my remarks by thanking you for your time and attention. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity you've afforded me to voice my support for SJR 3.