

WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THE WITNESS INFORMATION FORM AND PROVIDE TO STAFF BEFORE TESTIFYING

DATE: March 20, 2018

NAME: Jack Cera

ORGANIZATION: Self (Sponsor Testimony)

POSITION/TITLE: State Representative HD 96

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DO YOU WISH TO BE ADDED TO THE COMMITTEE NOTICE EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST?: YES NO

ARE YOU TESTIFYING ON BEHALF OF: YOURSELF ORGANIZATION

DO YOU WISH TO TESTIFY ON:

LEGISLATION (BILL NUMBER) HB 518

OTHER _____

ARE YOU TESTIFYING AS A: PROPONENT OPPONENT INTERESTED PARTY

PLEASE GIVE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE GROUNDS ON WHICH YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE SUCH ENACTMENT:

Sponsor testimony on HB 518

DO YOU HAVE WRITTEN TESTIMONY, VISUAL AIDS, OR OTHER MATERIALS TO DISTRIBUTE?

YES NO

IF YES, PLEASE SEND AN ELECTRONIC VERSION TO THE CHAIR'S OFFICE

HOW MUCH TIME WILL YOUR TESTIMONY REQUIRE: _____

Committees:

Finance and Appropriations, Ranking Member
Agriculture and Rural Development
Ways and Means

Member of the State Controlling Board



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JACK CERA

State Representative

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Energy and Natural Resources
Chairman Al Landis
Sponsor Testimony – HB 518
Tuesday, March 20th, 2018
2:30 PM Room 018

Chairman Landis, Vice Chair Hagan, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 518. This legislation will provide much-needed updates to our state's hunting and fishing regulations. It honors Ohio's proud history of being a leader in the sporting industry, while providing flexibility to the Wildlife Division of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to encourage a new generation of sportsmen and women.

I'm glad to join my House Co-Chair of the Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, Representative Dever, in sponsoring this legislation. HB 518 is the product of months of internal discussions and careful study on the part of ODNR. As the bill progresses, we will continue to work with interested parties to ensure that HB 518 benefits both our regulators and the customers they serve.

Among the most visible changes made by the legislation are the introduction of multi-year, lifetime, and combination package licenses for hunting and fishing. Under current law, even the most avid sportsmen and women must renew their licenses on a yearly basis. The option for buying multi-year or lifetime licenses will better serve these customers. It will also capture revenue lost under our current model by those who anticipate being yearly hunters, but for whatever reason may not end up making it out. The lifetime option, in particular, will provide a new opportunity for parents and grandparents to pass on the tradition of hunting and fishing to their loved ones.

Other changes made by HB 518 include the creation of the Lake Erie Sport Fishing District permit, which will provide additional resources towards the lake's continued protection. Another common-sense update will make a standard fishing license valid for one year upon issuance, instead of always expiring on the last day of February, which often discourages those who are considering buying a license late in the season. HB 518 also updates the definition of all-purpose vehicle to allow Ohioans with mobility impairments greater flexibility in finding a vehicle to hunt with.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 518. The goal of this legislation is to protect the financial stability of the Division of Wildlife while encouraging hunting and fishing for generations to come. I would be happy to address any questions or concerns the committee may have.