

S T A R K C O U N T Y

FEDERATION of
CONSERVATION
C L U B S

FINANCE COMMITTEE

To the Honorable Chairman Senator Dolan
And Honorable Senator Schuring
Senate Finance Committee

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing on behalf of members of the Stark County Federation of Conservation Clubs, representing over 4,000 Sportsmen and Sportswomen in and around Stark County. We as sportsmen and conservationists have a lot in common with the ODNR, the Division of Wildlife, The Parks and Watercraft and that is to have the BEST PARKS, LAKES, PUBLIC HUNTING AND FISHING AREAS, SHOOTING AREAS, AND RECREATIONAL AREAS IN THE STATE and to preserve these areas for future generations. The state of Ohio in the last 4 years has experienced an outstanding growth and development under the current Governor's leadership and commitment to make this happen. Governor DeWine has the right people in place to continue developing the state's natural resources for hunting, fishing, hiking, and recreational use. This attracts people from outside the state to Ohio, which brings in more money for local businesses and tax dollars.

starkcofedcc@gmail.com

The last 3 years saw the Division of Wildlife have an officer assigned to each of the 88 counties, something which had not been possible due to budget restraints. Land was purchased through wildlife dollars and state money to further develop public hunting and fishing areas. License fees for hunting and fishing were endorsed by sportsmen and sportswomen during the past 4 years to support the goals of the Division of Wildlife. Ohio has some of the best fishing and hunting in the country.

We ask that the Budget of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, The Parks, and Watercraft and other divisions within the ODNR be restored to what it was first submitted in the biennium budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Rutledge

President

Stark County Federation of Conservation Clubs