



November 17, 2025

Chair Kristina D. Roegner
Senate General Government Committee
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH

RE: SJR 8 – Constitutional Right to Hunt and Fish
Position: Support

Dear Chair Roegner and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Sportfishing Association and the nation's recreational fishing industry, we write to express our strong support for Senate Joint Resolution 8 (SJR 8), which would provide Ohioans the opportunity to vote for a constitutional right to hunt and fish in Ohio. SJR 8 represents a meaningful step forward in safeguarding access, habitat conservation, and the outdoor recreation economy for future generations.

ASA is the nation's recreational fishing trade association, providing a united voice for the recreational fishing industry when emerging laws and policies pose significant impacts on sportfishing businesses or sportfishing itself. ASA's member businesses and organizations in Ohio include sportfishing and marine manufacturers, outdoor gear brands and small businesses across the state. Ohio is a cornerstone state for the sportfishing industry, providing exceptional angling opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Ohio's fisheries – from the Walleye Capital of the World, Lake Erie, to Steelhead Alley in Northeast Ohio to bass fishing across thousands of inland lakes and reservoirs – welcome 1,730,000 anglers every year. These anglers spend \$5.5 billion on tackle, rods, reels, guide services and marine fuel, supporting over 34,000 jobs and a \$515 million in state and local tax revenue.

Passage of SJR 8 by the General Assembly would include the measure to establish Section 23, a constitutional right to hunt and fish, on the November 2026 general election ballot. If approved by Ohio's voters, Section 23 would clarify and reinforce the public's right to access fishable waters, while promoting conservation and sound fisheries management. By enshrining this right in the state constitution, the measure in SJR 8 would help maintain Ohio's vibrant sportfishing culture and tradition, supporting the robust economic impact made by recreational fishing statewide.

We respectfully urge the committee to advance SJR 8 and move the measure forward for voter ratification. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Connor Bevan".

Connor Bevan
Inland Fisheries Policy Director
American Sportfishing Association

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