



*Forging a partnership between farmers and consumers.
•Working together for Ohio's farmers•*

Spencer Waugh
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Senate Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources
SB 310 Proponent Testimony

Good morning, Chairman Hite, ranking member Gentile and members of the Senate Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Spencer Waugh. I am the director of legislative relations for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify as a proponent of Substitute Senate Bill 310.

With more than 214,000 member families, Ohio Farm Bureau is Ohio's largest general farm organization. Our members can be found in each of Ohio's 88 counties. They live in cities, suburbs, and rural areas and produce virtually every kind of food, fiber, or bio-based fuel imaginable.

Ohio Farm Bureau Federation's grassroots member driven policy states that we support more specific regulation governing the housing, care, and movement of exotic animals by private individuals. We support a ban on private ownership of certain species of wild and dangerous animals as long as a workable grandfather system is in place for existing owners. We appreciate the work of Senator Balderson and members of this committee in establishing these more specific regulations in Sub. S.B. 310 and creating a more workable grandfather system.

Specifically, we appreciate the committee's support in accepting several suggestions from our organization in the Sub Bill; especially removing care standards from statute and allowing them to be set via the Ohio Department of Agriculture rule-making process. This will bring consistency to ODA's rule making procedures and ensure flexibility for the Department as new science and best practices are developed.

While we will continue to assist with improvements and clarifications to this piece of legislation, we support its passage and look forward to continuing the process with the sponsor and the House committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 310. I would be glad to take any questions at this time.