



December 8, 2020

RE: Senate Bill 140; Revise Weapons Law

Position: Support

Dear Members of the Ohio House of Representatives,

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, I respectfully encourage you to support Senate Bill 140 to enable the sportsmen and women of Ohio to carry knives used for hunting, fishing and other outdoor sporting activities without fear of criminal prosecution.

Founded in 1989, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) has maintained a singleness of purpose that has guided the organization to become the most respected and trusted sportsmen's organization in the political arena. CSF's mission is to work with Congress, governors, and state legislatures to protect and advance hunting, angling, recreational shooting, and trapping. CSF has a strong track record in Ohio, working with the Ohio Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus and conservation partners to protect and advance Ohio's sporting heritage by supporting pro-sportsmen legislation and state fish and wildlife management objectives.

Knives are an essential tool for responsible hunting and fishing, and we strongly support repealing the knife ban to allow hunters and anglers to carry knives necessary for pursuing their pastimes. The legislation would remove an unwarranted bar against the carry of a legitimate tool and facilitate increased economic output and conservation funding for Ohio.

Sportsmen and women are the primary funders of state-based conservation and contribute significantly to the economy. In 2019 alone, Ohio's sportsmen and women contributed \$60.63 million to conservation funding generated through hunting and fishing licenses and excise taxes on sporting-related goods, the "user-pays, public-benefits" structure known as the American System of Conservation Funding. Additionally, Ohio's 1.56 million sportsmen and women have a significant economic impact spending more than \$2.75 billion, supporting more than 46,800 jobs, and generating more than \$301 million and state and local taxes in the state.

In summary, SB 140 would support Ohio's outdoor sporting heritage by increasing access to an important tool for hunting and fishing, and we respectfully urge you to support the legislation.

Thank you for considering our comments, and please let us know if you have questions or need additional information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Culclasure", written over a light gray rectangular background.

John Culclasure
Southeastern States Assistant Director
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
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