

March 4, 2007

Director Sean Logan  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
2045 Morse Road  
Columbus, OH 43229

Dear Director Logan:

Thank you for hosting ODNR Open Houses throughout Ohio. It is heartening to know that the officials who help to maintain our great state's natural resources are interested in the concerns of Ohioans.

I am contacting you as a supporter of Ohioans For Concealed Carry, Ohio's premier grassroots gun rights organization, to discuss a very important matter. Ohio is one of forty-eight states that have passed legislation allowing law-abiding citizens to carry a concealed handgun for self-defense. Unfortunately, ODNR policy is now out of step with the current concealed carry laws in Ohio, as it outright denies the lawful carry of a defensive sidearm in arbitrary instances, such as during a deer hunt. There are several reasons why it is imperative that this prohibition be lifted:

- **Hunters also have the right to self-defense.** Bad things can happen to good people any time, anywhere. It is naïve to believe that a tract of hunting land is devoid of mortal threats. I am sure you have received reports of deer hunters, for example, stumbling upon drug operations in isolated areas or hunters that have been attacked by dangerous wildlife. The current prohibition on self-defense tools is especially perilous for those that hunt with bows and muzzle loaders.
- **Concealed Handgun Licensees are proven good guys.** Some ODNR officials have said that they will not allow otherwise legal personal sidearms because "hunters will be tempted to use their handguns for poaching." Frankly, this assumption is disrespectful and insulting. Ohioans that have been licensed to carry a concealed handgun are the most law-abiding citizens in the state. We have undergone rigorous background checks, fingerprinting, and mandatory training. Licensed Ohioans are not criminals or poachers. We are sportsmen.
- **The current policy enables crime.** There is a significant risk of legal handguns being stolen when hunters are forced to leave them in their car for extended periods of time, which is what current ODNR policy mandates if a hunter wishes to have a self-defense tool available while in transit to or from a hunting area.

For these reasons, and many others, I ask that you assist us in altering the dangerous policy that forbids law-abiding Ohioans from their otherwise legal self-defense tools and bring ODNR's policies in line with current state laws concerning the carrying of a handgun for self-defense.

Sincerely,