



Attn: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Re: House Bill 1260
Date: March 20, 2023
Position: Support

Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,

I write you today on behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation in support of House Bill 1260, which would expand the ability of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (GFD) to conduct science-based wildlife management by allowing the GFD to develop agreements to compensate landowners for habitat development and issue special antlerless elk depredation management licenses. I respectfully request the members of this Committee support the passage of HB 1260.

Founded in 1989, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

State fish and wildlife management authorities like the North Dakota GFD are the entities best-equipped to make science-based decisions relating to fish and wildlife population management. By allowing the GFD to develop agreements to compensate private landowners for development of habitat on private property that benefits North Dakota's storied fish and wildlife populations, this bill expands the GFD's ability to carry out the function for which the department was created. Likewise, granting the GFD Director the authority to issue special antlerless elk depredation management licenses allows the Game and Fish Department additional avenues for managing elk populations in the state while benefiting from the unique "user pays – public benefits" structure of the American System of Conservation Funding.

I respectfully request that the members of this Committee support the passage of HB 1260 so that the North Dakota Game and Fish Department is better able to develop habitat and manage fish and wildlife populations. I thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Robert Matthews
Senior Coordinator, Great Lakes States
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
rmatthews@congressionalsportsmen.org | 517-210-2890

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