

CONGRESSIONAL
SPORTSMEN'S
FOUNDATION

January 20, 2026

Representative Bill Kinkade
Chairman, House Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Committee
400 High Street
Jackson, MS 39201

Re: HB 828; Mississippi Fair Chase Act

Position: Oppose

Dear Chairman Kinkade and Honorable Members of the House Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Committee,

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) and as a resident of the State of Mississippi, I respectfully encourage you to oppose HB 828, which would unnecessarily limit opportunities for Mississippi's sportsmen and women through banning the use of suppressors, thermal optics, and night vision to pursue nuisance game animals at night, threaten the time honored tradition of utilizing dogs to pursue, track, and recover game animals, and increase human/wildlife conflict through mandating that an individual obtain a depredation permit to eliminate any nuisance animal – no matter the circumstance.

Founded in 1989, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation 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.

Whether it is anticipating the point of a bird dog and the covey rise, sending a lab out to retrieve your kid's first greenhead, or calling on a tracking dog to recover that big white-tailed buck to make sure you are utilizing every available avenue to ethically recover downed game, Mississippians have a rich history of hunting with dogs and place great value on providing those experiences with the next generation of licensed hunters. HB 828 threatens that tradition by ambiguously requiring that hunting with dogs is only allowed on private property that is comprised of a minimum of 2k contiguous acres. Specifically, it does not stipulate exactly what kind of hunting dogs this would encompass nor the game in which those dogs are pursuing.

In addition to the threats to hunting with dogs, HB 828 further impacts Mississippi's hunters, farmers, and private landowners by limiting the use of suppressors, thermal optics and night vision to eliminate nuisance animals at night. Thermal optics and suppressors are just two of many tools

Your Inside Connection to Outdoor Legislation

CONGRESSIONAL
SPORTSMEN'S
FOUNDATION

in the bag in the effort to manage feral hogs, coyotes, and more. Feral hogs alone, cause \$2.5 billion in damage every year in the United States, and their population continues to grow in Mississippi. Therefore, hunters and private landowners should be offered the opportunity to continue to be able to take those animals with the effective tools currently allowed under state law.

In addition to limiting the tools that Mississippians can use in their efforts to eliminate nuisance animals, it is also problematic to require those individuals to obtain a depredation permit to be allowed to take that nuisance animal. This adds an unnecessary level of government bureaucracy and oversight that could be costly to private landowners in their efforts to protect livestock, pets, and property by delaying the response time that people can take while they wait for the approval of the depredation permit. Nuisance animals are separately defined from game animals in the State of Mississippi for the reason of allowing Mississippians to eliminate those animals as quickly as possible when needed in defense of property.

In closing, we oppose HB 828 due to the negative impacts it would have on Mississippi's sportsmen and women, and we ask that you oppose the bill. Thank you for considering our comments, and please let me know if you have questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,



Mark Lance
Assistant Manager, Southeastern States
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
mlance@congressionalsportsmen.org | 662-292-2033

Your Inside Connection to Outdoor Legislation
