

CONGRESSIONAL
SPORTSMEN'S
FOUNDATION

Attn: Members of the Indiana House of Representatives
Re: House Bill 1003 – Elimination of Natural Resources Commission
Date: February 2, 2026
Position: Oppose

Honorable Members of the Indiana House of Representatives

I write to you today on behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) in opposition to any section of House Bill 1003 that contributes to the elimination of the Indiana Natural Resources Commission (NRC). Although the bill aims to improve the expediency of state government by eliminating various boards and commissions in an attempt to eliminate bureaucratic red tape, the Indiana NRC does not fall into that category. I respectfully urge you to oppose the legislation as currently written.

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.

Established with the dedicated purpose of protecting and conserving wildlife, Natural Resources Commissions across the country, including in Indiana, are comprised of experts in the field. The Indiana NRC's regular meetings provide Hoosier sportsmen and women a dedicated forum to discuss and provide input on fish and wildlife management decisions. Given that hunters, anglers, trappers, and recreational shooters are the primary funders of fish and wildlife conservation efforts through license purchases and the revenue generated by purchases of firearms, ammunition, fishing rods and tackle, and other sporting goods, their voice holds the utmost value in conservation decision making. Eliminating the NRC eliminates the ability of sportsmen and women to participate in the decision-making process concerning the traditions that they directly fund and support.

I respectfully request that you reject the passage of HB 1003 as currently written and encourage the members of this body to reconsider amending the bill so that the NRC may continue to carry out its function of making informed, science-based fish and wildlife management decisions that protect Hoosier outdoor traditions for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Robert Matthews

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Your Inside Connection to Outdoor Legislation
