

CONGRESSIONAL
SPORTSMEN'S
FOUNDATION

To: Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Re: Senate Bill 201 – Use of a Drone for the Location and Recovery of Mortally Wounded
Deer and Elk
Position: Support
Date: February 5th, 2026

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

I write to you today on behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) in support of Senate Bill 201 (SB 201), which would authorize the use of a drone for recovery purposes of harvested or mortally wounded deer and elk.

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.

Senate Bill 201 would improve hunters' overall success in recovering deer or elk that they have attempted to harvest but have not yet recovered through traditional tracking methods. Drones have proven effective in locating wounded animals and authorizing their use for recovery reduces loss and helps hunters fulfil their ethical obligation to successfully recover and fully utilize harvested game animals. Drone technologies represent an advancement in the ongoing efforts of lawful hunters to minimize harvest loss, and, when used in combination with other recovery methods, can increase recovery rates.

Additionally, SB 201 clarifies that the use of drones cannot be used for the purposes of hunting, locating, or tracking deer and elk and may only be used when a hunter believes that the animal was mortally wounded, while engaged in a lawful hunt. The clear distinction between drone-assisted recovery and drone-aided hunting upholds the principle of fair chase by ensuring hunters do not gain an unfair advantage over wild animals.

I respectfully ask that you support the passage of Senate Bill 201, allowing hunters to use drones to locate harvested or mortally wounded deer and elk and thereby increasing the likelihood of successfully recovering game. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this topic. Should you require additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



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