



June 3, 2021

Honorable Members of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
2200 N 33rd St., Lincoln, NE 68503

Regarding: Proposed Changes to Section 116-4-001.01B5 (General Regulations Governing Wildlife Species) of the Nebraska Administrative Code

Honorable Members of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission,

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF), thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to Section 1 of Chapter 4 of the Nebraska Administrative Code. In response to this open comment period, CSF would like to state our support for the proposed change to Sub-part 001.01B5 regarding the lawful possession of a handgun by hunters while participating in the archery hunting season. We request that this letter be included as part of the hearing record.

Since 1989, CSF has maintained a singleness of purpose that has guided the organization to become one of the most respected and trusted sportsmen's organization in the political arena. CSF's mission is to work with Congress, governors, and state legislatures to protect and advance hunting, angling, recreational shooting, and trapping. The unique and collective force of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus, and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses, working closely with CSF, and with the support of major hunting, recreational fishing and shooting, and trapping organizations, serves as an unprecedented network of pro-sportsmen elected officials that advance the interests of America's hunters and anglers.

Due to the limitations associated with archery equipment, archery hunters are often severely disadvantaged when faced with self-defense situations while archery hunting. Recognizing these threats and the importance of maintaining the ability to defend oneself, 37 other states have already approved statutes and regulatory changes granting hunters the ability to legally possess a handgun for self-defense purposes, marking in an important step toward ensuring the safety and peace of mind of hunters while maintaining the fair chase ethic that many archery hunters find so challenging and enjoyable. While often anecdotal, there are numerous accounts of hunters who have faced threats related to wild predators or dangerous encounters with other humans, often related to illegal drug activity, that required the use of self-defense equipment to protect the lives of themselves or others. Given the importance of personal protection, CSF has long maintained

that the rights to personal protection should not be relinquished when an archery hunter enters the field or forest.

Again, CSF supports the proposed change to Chapter 4, Section 1, Sup-part 001.01B5 that would allow archery hunters to possess handguns while hunting. Approval of this change represents a great opportunity for hunters to be able to have peace of mind while participating in their outdoor pursuits. Thank you again for your time and consideration on these matters. If you have questions or would like any additional information, please feel free to contact me using the information below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent Keene", written in a cursive style.

Kent Keene

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