



To: Honorable Members of the Texas Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus
State Capitol
1100 Congress Ave,
Austin, TX 78701

Re: HB 2213 – Relating to the slaughter and processing of exotic animals for
donation to a nonprofit food bank

Position: Support

Date: March 23, 2021

Honorable Members of the Texas Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus:

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation (CSF), I ask that you support House Bill 2213 (HB 2213), a bill that would allow hunters to donate meat from exotic animals that are legally harvested in Texas to local nonprofit food banks. This bill would further allow hunters to share the bounty of their harvests with those who most need it.

Since 1989, CSF has maintained a singleness of purpose that has guided the organization to become 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.

The history of hunters as food providers can be traced back to the earliest days of human civilization. Today, the need for hunters to provide sustainable sources of proteins for their families and communities is much less critical. However, that does not mean that hunters no longer have a role to play in providing food for their community. Thanks to the wide adoption of game meat donation programs, hunters can continue to serve as a source of high-quality protein for those who need it the most. HB 2213 expands the current opportunities to donate harvested meat from native species by allowing Texas hunters to donate mean from legally harvested exotic species that one can harvest throughout the Lone Star State.

Recently, demand placed upon food banks, particularly in the last year due to the effects of the ongoing pandemic, have increased the need for sustainable sources of healthy protein. To help address this growing demand, HB 2213 would allow hunters to continue to give back to their community, by following the framework established by programs like Texas' Hunters for the Hungry, by providing opportunities to ensure those who most need it can receive this quality, ethically harvested meat.

In conclusion, CSF encourages members of the Texas Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus to support HB 2213 and allow hunters to donate meat from legally harvested exotic species to local food banks. This bill is a great opportunity for hunters to continue to play a role in the conservation and management of Texas' wildlife populations while supporting those with the greatest needs. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

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

Kent Keene
Senior Coordinator, Lower Midwestern States and Agriculture Policy
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
kkeene@congressionalsportsmen.org | 202-430-0655