



Resolution of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Supporting Legislation to Enhance Hunting Opportunities on Sundays

WHEREAS, the mission of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is to conserve North Carolina's wildlife resources and their habitats and provide programs and opportunities that allow hunters, anglers, boaters, and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy wildlife-associated recreation; and

WHEREAS, in fulfilling its mission to provide opportunities for hunters to enjoy wildlife-associated recreation, the Commission adopted regulations in 2009 authorizing hunting on Sundays on private lands with archery equipment; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly adopted legislation allowing limited seven-day firearm hunting on private land in 2015; and

WHEREAS, many North Carolina residents continue to seek hunting opportunities in neighboring states that offer less restrictive Sunday hunting, thereby generating economic activity outside of North Carolina instead of providing substantial economic benefits to rural areas and businesses within our borders; and

WHEREAS, expanding hunting opportunities on Sunday substantially increases the number of hunting days for youths during the school year and provides additional options for hardworking adults with limited weekend hunting opportunities; and

WHEREAS, removing the prohibition of hunting with a firearm within 500 yards of a residence on Sunday will potentially provide hunter access to millions of acres of private and public land currently unavailable; and

WHEREAS, North Carolinians have been hunting on Sunday with firearms since 2015 without conflict; and

WHEREAS, current prohibitions against expanded options for Sunday hunting of upland game birds and wild animals serve no purpose regarding conservation of North Carolina's wildlife resources and their habitats; and

WHEREAS, the rich migratory bird hunting heritage and special regulations pertaining to waterfowl requires additional careful consideration prior to implementing any hunting opportunities on Sundays; and

WHEREAS, the duly appointed members of the Commission are the sworn stewards of North Carolina's wildlife resources; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission hereby affirms its full support for legislation increasing public hunting opportunities across the state on Sundays, provided such legislation: lifts the prohibition against hunting within 500 yards of a residence; lifts the prohibition against hunting between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm; and lifts the prohibition against hunting with firearms in a county with a population greater than 700,000 people; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission hereby affirms its full support for legislation maintaining the prohibition against hunting migratory birds on Sundays, unless the Commission authorizes it through rulemaking pursuant and subsequent to completion of a study examining biological and resource management impacts, economic impacts, and social impacts associated with hunting migratory birds on Sundays.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Clark".

Chairman

June 5, 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. R. Myers".

Executive Director

June 5, 2017