



To: **Chairman, Fisheries and Wildlife Board**
c/o Director of MassWildlife
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
1 Rabbit Hill Road
Westborough, MA

Re: **Proposed Regulatory Amendments Relative to 321 CMR 3.02(6) and 3.03(2)**

Position: **Support**

Date: **September 27, 2021**

Chairman Joseph S. Larson, Ph.D., and Honorable Members of the Fisheries and Wildlife Board:

My name is Joseph Mullin, and I am the Assistant Manager, Northeastern States for the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF). As a Massachusetts resident and an avid sportsman, I would like to express my strong support, as well as the support of CSF, for the proposed regulatory amendments relative to 321 CMR 3.02(6) and 3.03(2). The creation of a pheasant and quail permit will generate increased funding for conservation efforts, benefitting all Massachusetts residents. Additionally, removing the seasonal bag limits for pheasant and quail will allow sportsmen and women to spend more days in the field, providing opportunities to spend additional time introducing new hunters into the community and the ability to further contribute to the state's conservation funding. Upland hunting cultivates an environment that encourages open dialogue in the pursuit of game, allowing new hunters to have a much more engaged experience alongside their mentors.

Since 1989, CSF has dedicated itself to the mission of working 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 conservation interests of America's hunters and anglers.

For more than 80 years, sportsmen and women have been the primary benefactors of state-level conservation efforts and are thus an important constituency that provides benefits for all Massachusetts residents. Revenue is generated for conservation by sportsmen and women through license sales and excise taxes on sporting-related goods in the unique "user-pays, public-benefits" structure known as the American System of Conservation Funding (ASCF). Revenue collected

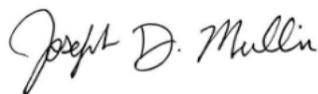
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through this program is the lifeblood of state fish and wildlife agencies (including the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife) – the primary managers of our nation’s fish and wildlife resources. The funds collected through the creation of a pheasant and quail permit will further contribute to the ASCF, supporting the Division’s on-the-ground conservation efforts and exemplifying the ways in which upland hunting contributes funding towards our state’s fish, wildlife, and natural habitats.

For new sportsmen and women, upland hunting offers a variety of benefits and presents the engaging opportunity to experience time afield in an ideal learning environment. It is unique in that it is one of the few hunting pursuits in which you are encouraged to speak loudly and move freely, which in turn allows for increased communication and overall enhanced comradery. Likewise, upland hunting positions are often coordinated in a targeted approach that allows beginning hunters to quickly grasp the tactics involved in the pursuit. Therefore, upland hunting can be the ultimate opportunity for new sportsmen and women to learn alongside mentors in a more controlled, safe environment. Speaking from experience, it was one of the first hunting pursuits that I was taken on in my youth, and I have been part of numerous trips in which I worked alongside new hunters. At a point in time where national participation in hunting has been on a general decline, upland hunting provides new sportsmen and women a constructive introduction to our nation’s sporting traditions. By amending the existing regulations to remove the seasonal bag limit for pheasants and quail, new hunters would be able to spend a greater amount of time learning in the field through hands-on experience. Rather than reaching the seasonal limit in a matter of a few days, something that many of us have done, we will be able to take to the field with our family, friends, and hunting dogs throughout the entire season, resulting in enhanced experiences and learning opportunities. It also stands to reason that this may result in increased funding for conservation efforts, as sportsmen and women will be purchasing additional gear, such as ammunition, that contributes to the ASCF.

For these reasons, I urge the Fisheries and Wildlife Board to support the proposed regulatory amendments relative to 321 CMR 3.02(6) and 3.03(2). Should you require any additional information on this, or any other sportsmen-related topic, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



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