

# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

## Office of the Governor



### Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Mississippi has a rich and storied tradition of hunting and angling, that dates back further than the state itself and carries forward to this day; and

**WHEREAS**, hunting and angling continue to be an integral component of the cultural fabric of communities throughout the state, and over the past year has offered a growing number of participants an opportunity to connect with nature on a personal level while simultaneously providing food security, a sense of self-sufficiency, and both mental and physical health benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, Mississippi's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks to conserve fish, wildlife, and their habitat, and through their license fees helped fund state efforts to provide for healthy and sustainable natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, sportsmen and women supported self-imposed excise taxes on firearms and ammunition, fishing tackle and motorboat fuels to raise additional conservation funds; and

**WHEREAS**, to this day, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks is funded, in part, by sportsmen and women, through this American System of Conservation Funding - a "*user pays - public benefits*" approach that is widely recognized as the most successful model for funding fish and wildlife management in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, last year alone, Mississippi's sportsmen and women generated \$31.74 million through this System to support the conservation efforts of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks; and

**WHEREAS**, it is reported that 782,000 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through spending more than \$2.2 billion while engaged in their pursuits; and

**WHEREAS**, this spending supports over 33,584 jobs in Mississippi and generates \$187 million in state and local taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, National Hunting and Fishing Day was established in 1972 to celebrate and recognize hunters and anglers for their immense contributions to fish and wildlife conservation, and to our society;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby recognize the many and varied social, cultural, economic, and ecological benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and angling; and, proclaim Saturday, September 25, 2021 to be

### Mississippi Hunting and Fishing Day

a day to be set aside in celebration of Mississippi's sportsmen and women.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 25th day of August in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-sixth.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tate Reeves".

TATE REEVES  
GOVERNOR

