

## A Proclamation

### Dedicating Saturday, September 24, 2022 as National Hunting and Fishing Day in the State of North Dakota

*Whereas*, North Dakota 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 recent years have 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;

*Whereas*, North Dakota's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the North Dakota Game and Fish 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 North Dakota Game and Fish 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, North Dakota's sportsmen and women generated \$29,248,374 through this System to support the conservation efforts of the North Dakota Game and Fish; and

*Whereas*, 246,885 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through their spending, contributing to the \$1,176,202 spent on outdoor activities in North Dakota last year.

*Whereas*, According to 2021 data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, on the national level sportsmen and women spent more than \$39 billion on hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting, which does not include spending on items such as trips and travel, or license fees that were necessary for their participation. This spending helped fuel the outdoor economy, which comprised 2.0% of North Dakota's GDP that same year; 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;

*Therefore*, I Douglas Burgum, Governor of the State of North Dakota, do hereby recognize the many and varied social, cultural, economic, and ecological benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and angling; and,

*Therefore*, Proclaim Saturday, September 24, 2022 to be National Hunting and Fishing Day in North Dakota, a day to be set aside in celebration of North Dakota's sportsmen and women.

Given under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of North Dakota, this **24** of  
**September 2022**