



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Tennessee 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, Tennessee's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency 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 Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is funded 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, Tennessee's sportsmen and women generated \$70.65 million through this System to support the conservation efforts of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency; and

WHEREAS, 994,000 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through spending more than \$1.8 billion while engaged in their pursuits; and

WHEREAS, this spending supports over 26,389 jobs in Tennessee and generates \$167 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; and

WHEREAS, it is worthy to recognize the many and varied social, cultural, economic, and ecological benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and angling;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 25, 2021 as

Hunting & Fishing Day

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this thirteenth day of September, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Lee".

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Regot".

Secretary of State

