



March 25, 2021

Colorado Senate – Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
Colorado State Capitol  
200 E Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80203

RE: SB 150 – 2021

Chairwoman Donovan and Senate Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in opposition of Senate Bill 150 - Reserve Big Game Hunting Licenses for Residents. The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) opposes SB 150, which would circumvent the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission purpose and its responsibility towards science-based wildlife management. While CSF recognizes the challenge of meeting the needs of both resident and non-resident hunters, we are concerned that without a detailed plan to replace lost revenue if SB 150 were to pass, Colorado and its public trust wildlife resources will ultimately suffer.

Since 1989, CSF has maintained a singleness of purpose that has guided the organization to become the most respected and trusted sportsmen's organization in the political arena. CSF's mission is to work 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 interests of America's hunters and anglers.

According to the State of Colorado Joint Budget Committee's FY 2021-2022 Staff Budget Briefing for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is the largest division within the DNR, accounting for 51% of the DNR's total appropriations for FY 2020-21. Wildlife Operations manages over 960 of the State's wildlife species and accounts for 62.3% of the CPW budget. The largest source of funding for Wildlife Operations is the Wildlife Cash Fund, which receives most of its revenue from hunting and fishing license sales. In FY 2019-20, license sales generated about \$108.2 million in revenue, a 12.4% increase from the previous year. Sales to non-residents make up the majority of this revenue, representing about 31.6% of all licenses sold and over 65.8% of total revenue. It would be irresponsible of the legislature to pass SB 150 without first developing a detailed plan to replace lost revenue that included robust opportunity for public engagement.

The CPW Commission is tasked with setting regulations and policies for Colorado's wildlife programs utilizing the best available science and management methods while providing ample opportunity for public engagement. Wildlife management decisions, such as those identified in SB 150, must be left to CPW – the body best equipped to make informed, science-based decisions based off of the North American Model of Conservation that are in the best interest of Colorado

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and its wildlife as a whole. The current big game season structure is a prime example of that process that took years of dedicated hard work and public engagement to create.

For the above stated reasons, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation urges you to oppose SB 150 - Reserve Big Game Hunting Licenses for Residents.

Sincerely,

Ellary TuckerWilliams  
Rocky Mountain States Senior Coordinator

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