



**Attn:** House Committee on Agriculture & Conservation  
**Re:** House Bill 2317  
**Date:** March 6, 2023  
**Position:** Support

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Honorable Members of the House Committee on Agriculture & Conservation,

I write you today on behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation in support of House Bill 2317, which would encourage angler recruitment in the state by allowing first-time or lapsed anglers to purchase one-time fishing licenses. I respectfully request the members of this Committee to support the passage of this bill.

Founded in 1989, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

House Bill 2317 would create an opportunity to recruit anglers to the sport by lowering the entry barrier for those who have not purchased a fishing license in ten years. By providing this one-time discount for new or lapsed anglers, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will tap into a demographic that it does not currently benefit from. Illinoisians that purchase licenses thanks to this incentive may become lifetime anglers, which will provide additional revenue to the DNR in the long term. Through the American System of Conservation Funding, the Illinois DNR relies in part on the sale of fishing licenses to support its efforts in managing the state's fish and wildlife populations. This bill serves as a worthwhile investment to attract newcomers to the waters of Illinois in an effort to expand the base of license purchasers, thereby increasing funding over time.

I respectfully request that this Committee support the passage of HB 2317. I thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and welcome any further questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

**Robert Matthews**

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