



Attn: Members of Minnesota State Legislature
Re: HF 2310 CC Report, Art. 4, Sec. 56: Crossbows
Date: May 17, 2023
Position: Support

Honorable Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

I write to you today on behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation in support of Article 4, Section 56 of the House File 2310 Conference Committee Report. This section of the Environment, Natural Resources, Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Omnibus bill would fully incorporate the use of crossbows to take deer, bear, turkey, and rough fish during those species' respective archery seasons. Expanding crossbow hunting opportunities may increase hunter recruitment, retention, and reactivation while simultaneously contributing to the management of Minnesota's fish and game populations.

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.

Crossbows benefit the hunting community at large, but particularly so for aging archery hunters by providing an opportunity to continue to pursue their favorite species; as a dramatic decrease in archery hunters has been shown to occur as they grow older. Additionally, crossbows serve as an introduction to new methods of take to hunters that have only hunted with a firearm. A report released by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, following its inclusion of crossbows in archery season, found that about 19% of hunters using a crossbow had only previously hunted with a firearm. Further, like other archery equipment, crossbows are a useful tool for the management of overabundant deer populations in both urban and suburban areas, where concerns of human-wildlife conflict and damage to property and the environment are heightened.

By passing this section of the omnibus bill, Minnesota would join the majority of states across the country that allow unrestricted crossbow use throughout all big game seasons. In the interest of recruiting and retaining hunters in Minnesota, as well as supporting the active management of fish and game populations in the State, I respectfully request that you support the inclusion of Art. 4, Sec. 56 in HF 2310. I thank you for the opportunity to express this support and welcome any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Robert Matthews

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