



Attn: Senate Committee on Natural Resources
Re: Senate Bill 241
Date: January 18, 2024
Position: Support

Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources,

I write to you today on behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation to respectfully request that you support the passage of Senator Baldwin's Senate Bill 241, which would require the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish and implement a season to take bobcats. The ability to manage predator populations is an integral component of the DNR's mission to conserve the Hoosier State's natural resources. Bobcat populations are steadily growing in Indiana, and without active population management best achieved through regulated harvest guided by science-based principles, their population and impact on their ecosystems¹ will continue to grow. I respectfully request that the honorable members of this Committee support the passage of SB 241.

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.

The language of SB 241 directs the Indiana DNR to utilize Indiana's strong base of sportsmen and women to address the growing population of bobcats in the State while fully vesting management authority over a bobcat season within the DNR. Staffed with wildlife experts that are well-suited to collect population data and reactively set appropriate season dates, quotas, and other restrictions based on the needs of Indiana's bobcat population, the DNR is the entity best equipped to make science-based wildlife management decisions.

This bill would install an effective method of managing the State's abundant bobcat population without usurping the critical, science-based decision-making authority wielded by the Indiana DNR. For that reason, I respectfully request that this Committee support the passage of this legislation, and I invite you to reach out to me with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

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¹ *Bobcats*, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Accessed January 16, 2024. <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/wildlife-resources/animals/bobcats>

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