



To: House Committee on Fish and Game and Marine Resources
107 N Main St
LOB Room 305-307
Concord, NH 03301

Re: House Bill 1100 – An Act Relative to Coyote Hunting

Position: Oppose

Date: February 1, 2024

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Fish and Game and Marine Resources,

My name is Fred Bird, and I am the Northeastern States Assistant Manager for the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation (CSF) and a New Hampshire resident sportsman. I write to you today in opposition to House Bill 1100 (HB 1100). Of concern, is the removal of rule and season setting authority from New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and ceding it instead to the Legislature.

Founded in 1989, 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 New Hampshire Fish and Game Department has long been recognized as the primary and most well-equipped manager of fish and wildlife in the Granite State. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department is staffed by trained professionals with backgrounds in a wide variety of expertise, including biology, law enforcement, land management, wildlife biology, and numerous other disciplines. These professionals carry out on-the-ground conservation efforts and possess an intimate understanding of the states’ conservation priorities. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department engages with hunters, anglers, trappers, and recreational shooters as key stakeholder groups to ensure that outdoor recreation opportunities are being maximized for the benefit of the public. This ensures that conservation funding derived from the purchase of licenses and tags, as well as manufacturer-level excise taxes paid on hunting and fishing-related expenditures, will continue to flow back to the state through the American System of Conservation Funding.

Further, state legislators are encouraged to consider introducing preemptive legislation that specifically states that the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department is the primary manager and will retain management authority over all fish and wildlife management in perpetuity.

I respectfully request that the members of this Committee oppose the passage of House Bill 1100 and protect the authority and integrity of the rules and season setting of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. I appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments and welcome any questions that you may have. Should you require additional information on this, or other sportsmen-related topics, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred Bird', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Fred Bird
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