



February 13, 2024

Senator Southerland
Chairman, Senate Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
722 Cordell Hull Building
425 5th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Senate Bill 1942 / House Bill 1618; Baiting

Position: Oppose

Dear Chairman Southerland and Members of the Senate Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee,

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, we write to respectfully express our opposition to Senate Bill 1942/House Bill 1618 which would allow a person to hunt on or over privately owned land where bait is present.

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.

Senate Bill 1942/House Bill 1618 would allow for the indiscriminate baiting of Tennessee's wildlife which contravenes rules established by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) and the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission (Commission). A key tenet of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which is recognized as the most successful wildlife conservation model in the world, is that wildlife policy is formulated through the use of the best available science. Through their public input process, the TWRA promulgates science-based regulations that also consider social and economic impacts, and we firmly believe that the TWRA and the Commission are the appropriate decision-making authorities for wildlife management, including the specifics on baiting.

Your Inside Connection to Outdoor Legislation

To ensure that the TWRA and its Commission will continue to manage Tennessee's wildlife resources through science-based principles, we respectfully encourage you to oppose Senate Bill 1942/House Bill 1618.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Conner Barker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Conner Barker
Southeastern States Coordinator
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
cbarker@congressionalsportsmen.org