



**Attn:** Members of the Assembly Committee on Sporting Heritage  
**Re:** Assembly Bill 1030  
**Date:** February 12, 2024  
**Position:** Oppose

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Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Sporting Heritage,

I write to you today on behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation to respectfully request that you oppose the passage of Assembly Bill 1030, which would prohibit the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from allowing antlerless deer to be hunted in the northern forest zone, impacting twenty counties. Despite valid concerns about the shrinking deer herd size shared by many Wisconsinites in the northern region, this sort of decision making is best left to the DNR whose professional staff possesses the knowledge and data to make informed decisions regarding antlerless deer hunting opportunities in this zone.

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.

Prohibiting the DNR from carrying out the very function for which it was created – to conserve the State's natural resources, including its storied fish and wildlife populations, through science-based management decisions – is not a solution that delivers long-term, responsive management in the face of changing circumstances and data. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is staffed with wildlife biologists that have the expertise and experience to collect, interpret, and respond to changing population trends, making it the best-equipped entity to manage deer and other wildlife species. As such, the DNR should be trusted with the sole authority to manage the state's hunting season in a manner that is based on the best available data, rather than emotions or politics.

Although deer harvest has decreased in the region that would be impacted by AB 1030, other factors, including weather conditions and an exploding wolf population, contribute to the overall health of the State's deer herd. The DNR has the rulemaking authority to make the adjustments necessary to improve both the health of the deer population and hunting opportunities for Wisconsinites. For that reason, I respectfully request that you oppose AB 1030. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to reach out with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

**Robert Matthews**

Senior Coordinator, Great Lakes States  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
[rmatthews@congressionalsportsmen.org](mailto:rmatthews@congressionalsportsmen.org) | 517-210-2890

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