



To: Honorable Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Re: Senate Bill 2168 – Hunting Near Buildings, Occupied Structures, or Storage Structures
Position: Oppose
Date: January 23, 2025

Honorable Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF), I respectfully ask that you oppose Senate Bill 2168 (SB 2168), a bill that would require hunters to have permission from neighboring landowners to hunt within four hundred and forty yards of an occupied building, structure, or storage structure, even if that structure is not located on the property they are hunting. SB 2168 ultimately limits the area hunters can legally hunt, regardless of permission granted by the owner of the property that hunters are actively using. Instead, we simply ask the Committee to uphold current statute which requires hunters to obtain permission from the actual property owner if they are hunting upon the premise of another.

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 capitals advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

As written, hunters would be required to obtain permission from neighboring property owners to hunt their own land, or public land, if the neighboring landowner has a building within four hundred and forty yards of the property's border. While we understand the intent behind protecting private property and promoting safety, we believe that current statute largely accomplishes these objectives while retaining access to public lands and the rights of landowners to use their own property as they see fit. Requiring hunters to obtain further consent from neighboring landowners due to the location of a structure relative to a property line could severely, albeit unintentionally, restrict access for hunting on both private and public lands.

With all of this in mind, CSF respectfully asks the honorable members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to table Senate Bill 2168, allowing hunters to continue to hunt their own land, or on public land, without requiring hunters to first obtain permission from the neighboring landowners. Should you require additional information on this, or other sportsmen's-related topics, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

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Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
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Your Inside Connection to Outdoor Legislation