



To: Honorable Members of the Arkansas Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus
Re: House Bill 1632 – Requires reimbursement to the state game and fish commission for free or discounted hunting and fishing licenses.
Position: Support
Date: March 7, 2025

Honorable Members of the Arkansas Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus,

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF), I am proud to ask for your support for House Bill 1632 (HB 1632), which would provide the Legislature with the opportunity to provide discounted hunting and fishing licenses to deserving user groups while protecting the integrity of the "user pays – public benefits" American System of Conservation Funding and the conservation efforts performed by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC).

Founded in 1989, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation 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.

Funded by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and permits, along with revenue generated from self-imposed excise taxes through the Pittman-Robertson Act and Dingell-Johnson Act with Wallop-Breaux Amendments, the ASCF serves as an important source of revenue for the AGFC. Recognizing this, it becomes clear that, without the reimbursement system created through HB 1632, the implications of discounting or outright waiving license requirements on license revenue are obvious. What is less known is the impact of license exemptions on the ability of the AGFC to fully claim their portion of revenue made available through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (Pittman-Robertson) Act. In making apportionments of this funding, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service uses a formula¹ that, in part, considers the number of eligible hunting and fishing licenses sold. To be counted, licenses not only need to be required, but must also result in revenue collected by the state fish and wildlife management agency (i.e., AGFC). In turn, each certified hunting license results in approximately an additional \$26 and each fishing license brings in \$10 of federal aid².

¹ Congressional Research Service. April 5, 2019. Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act: Understanding Apportionments for States and Territories. Accessed: March 7, 2025. <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/misc/R45667.pdf>

² Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. 2023. Reimbursement to Fish and Wildlife Agencies for Free and Discounted Licenses. Accessed: March 7, 2025. <https://congressionalsportsmen.org/policies/state/reimbursementto-fish-and-wildlife-agencies-for-free-and-discounted-license>

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CSF has long supported efforts to provide affordable and attainable hunting opportunities to deserving user groups while taking steps to safeguard the critical funding generated through the ASCF. With that, we are proud to support HB 1632's effort to reimburse the AGFC for any license or permit revenue forgone as a result of any new free or discounted license or permit provided by the Legislature going forward. In so doing, the Legislature will retain the opportunity to provide these incentives or rewards to deserving demographics without unduly threatening the ability of the AGFC to receive the funding necessary to continue its work managing Arkansas' public trust fish and wildlife resources for the benefit of all Arkansans.

In conclusion, CSF asks members of the Arkansas Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus to join in supporting HB 1632 throughout the legislative process. Doing so will ensure that deserving demographics can receive the benefits that the Legislature seeks to provide while safeguarding the ASCF and the AGFC's ability to perform their duties. If you have questions or would like any additional information, please feel free to contact me using the information below.

Sincerely,



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