



April 23, 2025

Representative John R. Bell, IV  
Chairman, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House Committee  
16 West Jones Street, Room 2301  
Raleigh, NC 27601

**Re: Senate Bill 220; Protect Private Property Rights**

**Position: Support**

Dear Chairman Bell and Members of the Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House Committee,

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, I write to express our support of Senate Bill 220. Senate Bill 220 would strengthen private property protections by requiring that individuals receive permission before accessing public trust waters from land; or before hunting, fishing, or trapping on private land that is not posted in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 14-159.7.

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.

As it currently stands, the requirement that any person who enters on to private property to hunt, fish, or trap must have written permission only applies to private lands that are posted in accordance with the provisions in [G.S. 14-159.7](#). Thus, lands that are not properly posted in the aforementioned code section are not offered the same private property protections under current law. By expanding private property protections to unposted land, landowners, many of whom allow or lease the right for law abiding hunters and anglers to access their lands, will be provided with further protection against unlawful hunting, fishing, trapping, or trespassing. Furthermore, CSF recommends that verbal permission be included in addition to written permission to simplify

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granting private land hunting access for both the landowner and hunter while simultaneously strengthening private property protections for unposted lands.

More than 80% of North Carolina's lands are privately owned, further highlighting the need for consistent and equitable private property protections. It is paramount that access to private land is maintained, especially in a state where so many hunters, anglers, and trappers depend on it.<sup>1</sup> Efforts to strengthen private property protections and combat trespassing, like those proposed in Senate Bill 220, will benefit private landowners, sportsmen and women who utilize private lands for access, and North Carolina's wildlife.

In closing, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation offers its full support of Senate Bill 220. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments, and please let us know if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Conner Barker".

Conner Barker  
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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncwildlife.gov/wildlife-habitat/private-lands-management>