



March 16, 2026

The Honorable Cameron Sexton
Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives
Suite 600 Cordell Hull Building
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: House Bill 2017; Proscribe the Manner and Means of Taking Wildlife

Position: Support

Dear Speaker Sexton and Honorable Members of the Tennessee House of Representatives,

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 2017, which would prohibit a city, county, town, municipality, or metropolitan government from regulating the manner and means of taking wildlife, including the discharge of a firearm while lawfully hunting.

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.

Since its inception in 1949, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) and its governing body, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission, have been tasked with managing Tennessee's wildlife for the use of all citizens. Currently, under [Tenn. Code Ann. § 70-1-302](#), the TWRA is authorized to protect, propagate, increase, preserve and conserve the wildlife of the state and enforce the existing laws of the state relating to wildlife. Additionally, under Article XI, Section 13 of the Tennessee Constitution, Tennesseans have the personal right to hunt and fish, subject to reasonable regulations and restrictions prescribed by law. Thus, as dictated by the State Constitution and laws passed by the General Assembly, Tennessee's hunters and anglers stand firm in their ability to enjoy our storied pastimes without interference from conflicting local laws and ordinances.

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Furthermore, the General Assembly has set a strong precedent in preempting local governments from placing onerous and burdensome restrictions on firearm owners. The General Assembly has already established a firearms preemption law protecting law-abiding gun owners from a confusing patchwork of local laws and ordinances and it only makes sense to extend this protection to those engaged in lawful hunting activities, as proposed in House Bill 2017.

House Bill 2017 would not alter existing discharge distance restrictions, nor would it prevent local governments from enforcing criminal laws. This measure would establish what has been the longstanding practice in Tennessee that lawful hunting is regulated by state law as opposed to various local laws and ordinances, maintaining the TWRA's management authority over Tennessee public trust wildlife resources.

In closing we respectfully encourage you to support House Bill 2017 which will prohibit local governments from interfering with lawful hunting practices. Thank you for considering our comments, and please let us know if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,

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

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

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