

CONGRESSIONAL
SPORTSMEN'S
FOUNDATION

To: Honorable Members of the Natural Resources Committee
Re: Legislative Bill 1197: Transfer of Resident Landowner Permits
Position: Oppose
Date: February 18, 2026

Honorable Members of the Natural Resources Committee,

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF), I respectfully urge you to oppose Legislative Bill 1197 (LB 1197), which would allow landowners to sell their limited landowner hunting permits. Allowing landowners to profit from access to public trust wildlife resources on the basis of landownership contradicts foundational conservation principles that have guided American fish and wildlife management policies since the late 1800s.

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.

The sale of special landowner permits that Legislative Bill 1197 contravenes the nature of the Public Trust Doctrine, a central component of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation¹. The Public Trust Doctrine maintains that private ownership of wildlife is not permitted in the United States. Rather, wildlife resources are owned by the public and managed for the public's benefit by state and tribal fish and wildlife management agencies, including the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC).

While landowner tags are a valuable tool to incentivize and thank private landowners for their contributions to wildlife conservation efforts – particularly in states largely comprised of privately owned lands such as Nebraska. However, allowing landowners to sell their limited landowner permits commercializes opportunities to pursue public trust wildlife resources, essentially creating a mechanism for privatization. While CSF supports opportunities to reward landowners for their contributions to wildlife and their habitat, we oppose the transferrable provisions of LB 1197 as an affront to both the Public Trust Doctrine and the sportsmen and women that have long pursued Nebraska's storied wild game.

In conclusion, CSF respectfully asks you to oppose Legislative Bill 1197 and protect the sanctity of the Public Trust Doctrine in Nebraska. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this issue. Should you require additional information on this, or other sportsmen-related topics, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Your Inside Connection to Outdoor Legislation

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