



March 31, 2026

Senator George E. “Chip” Campsen, III
 Chairman, Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee
 305 Gressette Building
 Columbia, SC 29201

Re: House Bill 3872; Hunting Heritage Protection Act

Position: Support

Dear Chairman Campsen and Members of the Senate Fish, Game and Forestry Committee,

On behalf of the undersigned conservation organizations, we write to express our strong support for House Bill 3872 which would establish a minimum acreage of South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR) owned lands open to hunting in which the DNR holds management authority of and are enrolled in the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) program.

As efforts to recruit the next generation of sportsmen and women continue across the state, promoting access to publicly available lands to pursue and enjoy the time-honored tradition of hunting should be top of mind. House Bill 3872 would ensure access to a minimum number of acres under the WMA program that South Carolinians enjoy each and every hunting season for generations to come.

If enacted, South Carolina would join other Southern states like Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee as states that have passed similar legislation to protect public hunting access for sportsmen and women in their state. Access is at the forefront of the minds of sportsmen and women and is often cited as a leading barrier to hunter recruitment, retention, and reactivation efforts. South Carolina has unparalleled outdoor opportunities thanks in part to the diverse and widespread Wildlife Management Area program managed by the South

Carolina Department of Natural Resources. This measure seeks to establish long-term protections for South Carolina's public hunting lands that hundreds of thousands of sportsmen and women rely on.

Additionally, sportsmen and women support a strong outdoor based economy in South Carolina. In 2023 alone, South Carolina's sportsmen and women generated over \$39.9 million for state-based conservation through hunting and fishing license sales and matching Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program funds.¹ Moreover, hunters in South Carolina support 10,100 jobs, \$315,000,000 in salaries and wages, and \$59,000,000 in state and local taxes, with a total economic effect of \$1,126,000,000.² By permanently maintaining DNR owned lands open to hunting, House Bill 3872 would conserve access for today and tomorrow's sportsmen and women that support South Carolina's booming sporting-conservation based economy.

In closing, we respectfully encourage you to support House Bill 3872 which would help protect public hunting access in South Carolina for generations to come. Thank you for considering our comments, and please let us know if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Audubon South Carolina
Boone and Crockett Club
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Delta Waterfowl
Ducks Unlimited
National Deer Association
National Rifle Association – Institute for Legislative Action
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever
Ruffed Grouse Society and American Woodcock Society
South Carolina Boating and Fishing Alliance
Safari Club International
South Carolina Waterfowl Association
South Carolina Wildlife Federation
The Nature Conservancy of South Carolina
Upstate Forever

¹ <https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn.congressionalsportsmen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/09204845/South-Carolina-ASCF-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

² <https://sportsmensalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2020-Economic-Impact-of-Hunting-and-Shooting-Technical-Report-V2.pdf>