



March 28, 2025

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

Re: House Bill 382; Elk Permit Auction/Raffle

Position: Support

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

On behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, I write to express our strong support of House Bill 382 which would allow the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) to issue two elk permits by raffle and auction for North Carolina's inaugural elk season in 2026.

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.

From the coast to the mountains, opportunities to pursue a variety of game species are plentiful for the sportsmen and women of North Carolina. House Bill 382 would create an additional opportunity to pursue one of the most storied big game animals in North America and solidify one of the greatest big-game, wildlife conservation success stories in the eastern United States.

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is regarded as the most successful model of wildlife conservation in the world. The model holds that wildlife management decisions and regulations be governed by the best available science, which are funded through the "user pays – public benefits" structure of the American System of Conservation Funding. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission has levied sportsmen and women generated conservation dollars

Your Inside Connection to Outdoor Legislation

in addition to decades of science-based wildlife management decisions to put North Carolina's elk herd in such a strong position to where House Bill 382 can be considered. This legislation allows the state, specifically the NCWRC, to maximize the amount of funding that will go back into the conservation of this iconic species through the auctioned permit. The raffled permit offers equal opportunity for all of North Carolina's sportsmen and women, ensuring a democratic process that conforms the bill to the 7th pillar of the North American Model.¹ Therefore, House Bill 382 ensures equal opportunity for the state's hunters as well the maximization of funding for elk conservation efforts.

Sportsmen and women support a strong outdoor based economy in North Carolina. In 2023 alone, North Carolina's sportsmen and women generated over \$88.7 million for state-based conservation through hunting and fishing license sales and matching Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program funds.² Moreover, hunters in North Carolina support 10,900 jobs, \$397,000,000 in salaries and wages, and \$58,000,000 in state and local taxes, with a total economic effect of \$1,414,000,000.³ By establishing an elk hunt in North Carolina, House Bill 382 would provide an additional opportunity for sportsmen and women to support North Carolina's booming sporting-conservation based economy. Moreover, a large percentage of the funds raised through both the raffle and the auction will go to the NCWRC and be put back into the conservation and management of North Carolina's elk.

In closing, to provide additional hunting opportunities and bolster conservation funding in North Carolina, we respectfully encourage you to support House Bill 382. Thank you for considering our comments, and please let us know if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,



Conner Barker
Senior Coordinator, Southeastern States
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
cbarker@congressionalsportsmen.org
(202) 984-1995

¹ <https://congressionalsportsmen.org/policy/north-american-model-of-wildlife-conservation/>

² <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn.congressionalsportsmen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/09204843/North-Carolina-ASCF-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

³ <https://sportsmensalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2020-Economic-Impact-of-Hunting-and-Shooting-Technical-Report-V2.pdf>