# First Regular Session Seventy-fourth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

## **INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. R23-0896.01 Jessica Wigent x3701

**SJR23-009** 

#### **SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

Will and Roberts,

### **HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

Lynch and McLachlan,

#### **Senate Committees**

## **House Committees**

	<b>SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 23-009</b>	
	CONCERNING THE COLORADO LEGISLATIVE SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, DESIGNATING APRIL 27, 2023,	
"SPORTSMEN'S DAY".	"SPORTSMEN'S DAY".	
	WHEREAS, More than a century ago, hunters and anglers were	
	among the first conservationists who realized America's natural resources	
	were in peril and could not sustain unregulated harvests and habitat	
	destruction; and	
	WHEREAS, Hunters and anglers took it upon themselves to	
	support laws that: Stopped excessive harvesting of fish and wildlife;	
	established game and fish agencies to protect fish and wildlife and their	
	habitats; and established special fishing and hunting license fees to help	
	fund efforts to provide healthy natural resources for future generations;	
	and	

1 2 3 4 5	WHEREAS, Upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, hunters and anglers supported excise taxes on firearms; ammunition; and archery, hunting, and fishing equipment to raise additional funds to support the restoration and enhancement efforts of state agencies; and
6 7	WHEREAS, This user-pay, public-benefit system became known as the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish
8	Restoration Program that began with the passage of the
9	"Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act" in 1937,
10	which was bolstered by the passage of the "Federal Aid in Sport Fish
11 12	Restoration Act" in 1950 and further expanded with the passage of the Wallop-Breaux amendments to the 1950 act in 1984; and
13	WHEREAS, Today, Colorado Parks and Wildlife is funded, in
14	part, by sportsmen and women, through the American System of
15	Conservation Funding, and this user-pay, public-benefit system is still
16	widely recognized as the most successful model for funding fish and
17	wildlife management in the world; and
18	WHEREAS, In 2021, Colorado's sportsmen and women generated
19	over \$136 million through this system to support the conservation efforts
20	of Colorado Parks and Wildlife; and
21	WHEREAS, Colorado's more than 1.2 million hunters and anglers
22	contribute more than \$3.2 billion in statewide economic output per year
23	while engaged in their pursuits, which supports over 25,000 jobs and
24	generates around \$187 million in state and local taxes; and
25	WHEREAS, The stated mission of the Colorado Legislative
26	Sportsmen's Caucus, a nonpartisan caucus formed in 2002 by the
27	Sixty-third General Assembly, is to:
28	• Preserve and promote the traditional rights of American
29	citizens to hunt, fish, and pursue outdoor activities;
30	• Ensure that America's sportsmen and women have
31	reasonable access to public lands to enjoy outdoor pursuits;
32	<ul> <li>Protect the investment of sportsmen and women in wildlife</li> </ul>
33	and fisheries management by safeguarding the integrity of
34	user-fee trust funds;
35	• Support efforts to enhance multiple-use habitat
36	management for wildlife and fisheries;

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1	• Recognize the importance of hunting, fishing, and other
2 3	outdoor activities to our nation's economy;
	• Support the maintenance and growth of outdoor-related
4	industries and activities; and
5	Work as a collaborative partner with the agricultural
6	community in providing and protecting wildlife habitats;
7	now, therefore,
8	Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fourth General
9	Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives
10	concurring herein:
11	(1) That the General Assembly urges its members to join the
12	Colorado Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus;
13	(2) That the General Assembly urges Colorado's institutions, both
14	public and private, to work with the Colorado Legislative Sportsmen's
15	Caucus as it strives to assist sportsmen and women to uphold their critical
16	role in maintaining an economically vibrant and environmentally healthy
17	Colorado; and
18	(3) That the General Assembly hereby declares Thursday, April
19	27, 2023, to be "Sportsmen's Day" in recognition of the sportsmen and
20	women of Colorado and in honor of their many contributions to
21	conservation across the Centennial State.
22	Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
23	to Jeff Davis, director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and Governor
24	Jared Polis.

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