

First Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R23-0896.01 Jessica Wigent x3701

SJR23-009

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 23-009

101 CONCERNING THE COLORADO LEGISLATIVE SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS,
102 AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, DESIGNATING APRIL 27, 2023,
103 "SPORTSMEN'S DAY".

1 WHEREAS, More than a century ago, hunters and anglers were
2 among the first conservationists who realized America's natural resources
3 were in peril and could not sustain unregulated harvests and habitat
4 destruction; and

5 WHEREAS, Hunters and anglers took it upon themselves to
6 support laws that: Stopped excessive harvesting of fish and wildlife;
7 established game and fish agencies to protect fish and wildlife and their
8 habitats; and established special fishing and hunting license fees to help
9 fund efforts to provide healthy natural resources for future generations;
10 and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

SENATE
Final Reading
April 27, 2023

1 WHEREAS, Upon realizing that license fees alone were
2 insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations,
3 hunters and anglers supported excise taxes on firearms; ammunition; and
4 archery, hunting, and fishing equipment to raise additional funds to
5 support the restoration and enhancement efforts of state agencies; and

6 WHEREAS, This user-pay, public-benefit system became known
7 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 Restoration Act" in 1950 and further expanded with the passage of the
12 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 ● Protect the investment of sportsmen and women in wildlife
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;

- 1 ● Recognize the importance of hunting, fishing, and other
2 outdoor activities to our nation's economy;
- 3 ● 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.