Second Regular Session Seventy-fourth General Assembly STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R24-1147.01 June McCabe x4143

SJR24-017

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Will and Roberts,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McLachlan and Lynch,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 24-017

101 CONCERNING THE COLORADO LEGISLATIVE SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS,

102 AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, DESIGNATING APRIL 18, 2024,

103 AS "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

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 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 archery, hunting, and fishing equipment to raise additional funds to 4 5 support the restoration and enhancement efforts of state agencies; and

6 WHEREAS, This user-pay, public-benefit system became known as the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish 7 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 part, by sportsmen and women through the American System of 14 15 Conservation Funding, and this user-pay, public-benefit system is still widely recognized as the most successful model for funding fish and 16 wildlife management in the world; and 17

18 WHEREAS, In 2021, Colorado's sportsmen and women generated 19 over \$136 million through this system to support the conservation efforts of Colorado Parks and Wildlife; and 20

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 Sportsmen's Caucus, a nonpartisan caucus formed in 2002 by the 26 27 Sixty-third General Assembly, is to:

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- Preserve and promote the traditional rights of American citizens to hunt, fish, and pursue outdoor activities;
 - Ensure that America's sportsmen and women have reasonable access to public lands to enjoy outdoor pursuits;
- Protect the investment of sportsmen and women in wildlife and fisheries management by safeguarding the integrity of 34 user-fee trust funds;
- 35 Support efforts to enhance multiple-use habitat • management for wildlife and fisheries; 36

1	• Recognize the importance of hunting, fishing, and other
2	outdoor activities to our nation's economy;
2 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	18, 2024, 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.