



Attn: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Re: House Bill 1409
Date: March 1, 2023
Position: Support

Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,

I write you today on behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation in support of House Bill 1409, which would remove the reciprocity requirement for granting nonresident general youth hunting licenses. This bill would offer increased opportunity for youth hunters to enjoy the state's storied small game and waterfowl populations. I respectfully request that the members of this Committee support the passage of HB 1409.

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.

House Bill 1409 serves to advance the recruitment of future sportsmen and women to the state by allowing more nonresident youth hunters to experience North Dakota's storied landscapes and wildlife populations. Fewer barriers to participate in hunting will result in the continued success of wildlife management in the state, which is funded in part through the unique "user pays – public benefits" approach of the American System of Conservation Funding. This bill would result in more hunters purchasing licenses in the state, which would in turn increase the funding received by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department via the Pittman-Robertson Act, as well as adding to the state's outdoor economy.¹

I respectfully request that the honorable members of this Committee support the passage of HB 1409. I thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and welcome any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Robert Matthews

Senior Coordinator, Great Lakes States
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
rmatthews@congressionalsportsmen.org | 517-210-2890

¹ "American System of Conservation Funding," *Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation*, Accessed February 22, 2023, <https://congressionalsportsmen.org/policies/state/ascf>

Your Inside Connection to Outdoor Legislation

AMERICAN SYSTEM OF CONSERVATION FUNDING



NORTH DAKOTA

	Hunting licenses	Fishing licenses	Pittman-Robertson	Dingell-Johnson	TOTAL
2021 Funding	\$10.77 M	\$4.02 M	\$9.60 M	\$4.83 M	\$29.24 M
2021 National Ranking	33rd	46th	38th	38th	39th
Historical Funding Total	\$283.3 M	\$73.48 M	\$192.0 M	\$115.7 M	\$664.5 M
Historical Funding U.S. Rank	39th	47th	38th	39th	43rd

19% Fishing

13% Hunting

Percent of North Dakota's residents who purchased a hunting or fishing license in 2021

2021 PAID LICENSE HOLDERS

343,530

2021 TOTAL LICENSE PERMITS/TAGS

715,734

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN'S ROLE IN CONSERVATION FUNDING VISIT CONGRESSIONALSPORTSMEN.ORG