

REFERENCE TITLE: hunting; angling; wildlife conservation

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2023

## **HCM 2005**

Introduced by  
Representative Griffin

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT HUNTING, ANGLING AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, states are the primary caretakers of fish and wildlife  
4 through the public trust doctrine; and

5 Whereas, the American system of conservation funding depends heavily  
6 on the financial support of hunters and anglers, who make the largest  
7 monetary contributions to the conservation of fish and wildlife through  
8 their purchases of licenses and hunt permit-tags and excise taxes on  
9 ammunition and outdoor recreation equipment; and

10 Whereas, the historic uses of Arizona's rivers, lakes, streams,  
11 forests and rural lands over several centuries have included hunting and  
12 angling; and

13 Whereas, Arizona has a rich, historic tradition of hunting and  
14 angling that dates back to before statehood and continues to this day; and

15 Whereas, Arizona's wildlife is held in the public trust, one of the  
16 core concepts guaranteeing opportunities for all citizens to participate  
17 in hunting, angling and wildlife conservation; and

18 Whereas, Arizona's sportsmen and sportswomen were among the first  
19 conservationists to support the establishment of the Arizona Game and Fish  
20 Department (AZGFD) to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats and to  
21 help fund state efforts to provide for healthy natural resources; and

22 Whereas, Arizona sportsmen and sportswomen continue to provide the  
23 funding for the AZGFD, which is the primary steward of the state's fish  
24 and wildlife resources; and

25 Whereas, more than 500,000 hunters and anglers in Arizona represent  
26 an economic powerhouse with spending that exceeds \$900 million per year  
27 and an economic impact of \$1.34 billion to this state; and

28 Whereas, Arizona's hunting and angling industries are a vital  
29 economic driver, supporting more than 17,000 jobs that generate \$314  
30 million in salaries and wages and creating economic opportunity,  
31 particularly in rural communities; and

32 Whereas, the annual spending by Arizona's hunters and anglers  
33 generates \$58 million in state revenue; and

34 Whereas, AZGFD successfully conserves and protects more than 800  
35 native wildlife species; and

36 Whereas, hunting and angling provide the financial backbone for  
37 world-class stewardship of natural resources through a "user pays-public  
38 benefits" approach that represents the world's most effective system of  
39 fish and wildlife management; and

40 Whereas, hunters and anglers must respect private property rights  
41 while they are engaged in their hunting and angling endeavors; and

42 Whereas, National Hunting and Fishing Day was established in 1972  
43 and is celebrated the fourth Saturday of each September to recognize  
44 hunters and anglers for their immense contributions to fish and wildlife  
45 conservation and to society; and

1           Whereas, hunting and angling in Arizona are a vital part of the  
2 state and local historic customs, culture, heritage and economies.

3 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of  
4 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

5           1. That the United States Congress respect the historic and current  
6 use of Arizona's recreational areas by sportsmen and sportswomen, support  
7 the time-honored Arizona traditions of hunting and angling, the very  
8 backbone of conservation, and respect the administration of wildlife  
9 conservation through the sound science delivered by the Arizona Game and  
10 Fish Department and science-based policies developed by the Arizona Game  
11 and Fish Commission.

12           2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit  
13 copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the  
14 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of  
15 Congress from the State of Arizona.