

House Engrossed

hunting; angling; wildlife conservation

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

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2005

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.

PASSED BY THE HOUSE FEBRUARY 21, 2023.

PASSED BY THE SENATE MAY 9, 2023.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY 10, 2023.