



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee has a rich and storied tradition of hunting and angling, that dates back further than the state itself and carries forward to this day; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitat, and through their license fees helped fund state efforts to provide for healthy and sustainable natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, sportsmen and women supported self-imposed excise taxes on hunting, fishing and boating equipment to raise additional conservation funds; and

**WHEREAS**, to this day, the Wildlife Resource Agency is funded primarily by sportsmen and women, through this American System of Conservation Funding - a "user pays - public benefits" approach that is widely recognized as the most successful model of fish and wildlife management in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, last year alone, Tennessee sportsmen and women generated \$62.93 million through this System to support the conservation efforts of the Wildlife Resource Agency;

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee's 994,000 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through spending more than \$1.8 billion annually while engaged in their pursuits; and

**WHEREAS**, this spending supports over 26,389 jobs in Tennessee and generates \$167 million in state and local taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, National Hunting and Fishing Day was established in 1972 to celebrate and recognize hunters and anglers for their immense contributions to fish and wildlife conservation, and to our society; and

**WHEREAS**, the many and varied social, cultural, economic, and ecological benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and angling are worthy of recognition;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 22, 2018 as

*Hunting and Fishing Day*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this fifteenth day of August, 2018.

Governor

Secretary of State

