



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, hunting and angling continue to be an integral component of the cultural fabric of communities throughout the state, and offer participants an opportunity to connect with nature on a personal level while simultaneously providing food security, a sense of self-sufficiency, and both mental and physical health benefits; 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, to this day, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources 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 for funding fish and wildlife management in the world; and

WHEREAS, last year alone, Tennessee's sportsmen and women generated \$65.53 million through this System to support the conservation efforts of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency; and

WHEREAS, 944,000 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through spending more than \$1.8 billion while engaged in their pursuits; and

WHEREAS, this spending supports over 26,385 jobs in Tennessee and generates \$167 million in state and local taxes; and

WHEREAS, as Governor, I recognize the many and varied social, cultural, economic, and ecological benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and angling;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 26, 2020 as

Hunting & Fishing Day

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in celebrating Tennessee's sportsmen and women.

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 eighteenth day of September, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Lee".

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. K. Hargett".

Secretary of State

