STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Tennessee has a rich and storied tradition of hunting and angling that predates statehood and remains an important part of the cultural fabric of communities across the state; and

WHEREAS, hunting and angling connect Tennesseans with the outdoors while promoting food security, self-sufficiency, and physical and mental well-being; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's hunters and anglers have long been leaders in conservation, supporting the establishment of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and helping fund the conservation of fish, wildlife, and their habitats through license fees and self-imposed federal excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, fishing equipment, and motorboat fuels; and

WHEREAS, this "user pays, public benefits" approach, known as the American System of Conservation Funding, remains a cornerstone of fish and wildlife management and generated $91 million for conservation efforts in Tennessee last year; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's 1.6 million hunters and anglers also contribute significantly to the state's economy, helping support the $15.5 billion spent on outdoor recreation in Tennessee last year, an industry representing 2.8 percent of the state's gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, hunters, anglers, and recreational shooters nationwide spent more than $41 billion on their activities, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, further demonstrating the important role these traditions play in the outdoor economy; and

WHEREAS, National Hunting and Fishing Day, established in 1972, recognizes hunters and anglers for their enduring contributions to conservation, outdoor recreation, the economy, and communities across Tennessee and the nation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 26, 2026 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 twelfth day of August 2026.

Bill Lee

Governor

Tre Hargett

Secretary of State