



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 02-1006

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Fritz, Rippey, Tochtrop, Alexander, Borodkin, Boyd, Cadman, Coleman, Crane, Daniel, Dean, Fairbank, Garcia, Grossman, Harvey, Hefley, Hodge, Hoppe, Jahn, Johnson, Kester, King, Larson, Lawrence, Lee, Mace, Marshall, Miller, Mitchell, Paschall, Ragsdale, Rhodes, Sanchez, Schultheis, Sinclair, Smith, Snook, Spradley, Stafford, Stengel, Swenson, Tapia, Vigil, Webster, Weddig, White, Williams S., Williams T., Witwer, and Young;

also SENATOR(S) Takis, McElhany, Anderson, Andrews, Arnold, Cairns, Chlouber, Dyer, Entz, Epps, Evans, Fitz-Gerald, Gordon, Hagedorn, Hanna, Hernandez, Hillman, Isgar, Lamborn, Linkhart, Matsunaka, May, Musgrave, Nichol, Owen, Pascoe, Perlmutter, Phillips, Reeves, Tate, Taylor, Teck, Thiebaut, and Windels.

CONCERNING THE COLORADO LEGISLATIVE SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS.

WHEREAS, Hunting and fishing, in addition to being essential components of Colorado's rich heritage, enjoy widespread popularity in this state, with about one-fifth of Coloradans surveyed participating in hunting and about one-half of Coloradans surveyed participating in fishing; and

WHEREAS, Hunting, fishing, and related outdoor activities are a tremendous boon to Colorado's economy, as more than \$1.7 billion is spent on hunting and fishing activities alone in this state each year; and

WHEREAS, The dollars spent by sportsmen also play a critical and unsung role in maintaining sound wildlife management and environmental conservation practices in the United States, considering that:

- For every taxpayer dollar invested in wildlife conservation, sportsmen contribute \$9;
- Each day, sportsmen contribute more than \$3 million to wildlife conservation efforts nationally, amounting to more than \$1.5 billion annually;
- In Colorado, sales of hunting and fishing licenses bring in about \$55 million for the Division of Wildlife each year, representing about two-thirds of the agency's total revenue;
- The Division of Wildlife and its programs are funded without any state taxpayer contribution whatsoever; and

WHEREAS, Along with the money generated by their activities, sportsmen provide direct assistance in maintaining sound wildlife management and environmental conservation practices by assisting wildlife managers and enforcement officers at all levels of government, by providing incentives for the conservation of wildlife and the habitats and ecosystems on which wildlife depends, and by performing the essential function of helping to maintain healthy and sustainable wildlife numbers; and

WHEREAS, The stated mission of the Colorado Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, a nonpartisan caucus recently formed by the Sixty-third General Assembly, is:

- To preserve and promote the traditional rights of American citizens to hunt, fish, and pursue outdoor activities;
- To ensure that America's sportsmen and women have reasonable access to public lands to enjoy outdoor pursuits;
- To protect the investment of sportsmen in wildlife and fisheries management by safeguarding the integrity of user-fee trust funds;
- To support efforts to enhance multiple-use habitat management for wildlife and fisheries;
- To recognize the importance of hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities to our nation's economy and support the maintenance and growth of outdoor-related industries and activities;
- To work as a collaborative partner with the agricultural community in providing wildlife habitat; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

1. That the General Assembly urges its members to join the Colorado Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, and play a part as the Caucus fulfills its mission statement.

2. That the General Assembly urges Colorado's institutions, both public and private, to work with the Colorado Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus as it strives to assist sportsmen to uphold their critical role in maintaining an economically vibrant and environmentally healthy Colorado.

Doug Dean
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Stan Matsunaka
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