



September 17, 2021

RE: Support for Department of Natural Resources Fee Package

Dear Members of the Indiana Natural Resource Commission,

On behalf of the tens of thousands of Indiana sportsmen and women represented by the undersigned organizations, we wish to express support for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fee package. Our organizations and members have demonstrated an unwavering dedication to supporting fish & wildlife, and the habitat upon which they depend for decades. Sportsmen and women broadly, are this country's original conservationists and have taken great pride in shouldering the financial burden of conserving the public's fish and wildlife resources for over a century.

The primary mechanism for supporting fish and wildlife conservation is through the sale of licenses and stamps as well as through the purchase of outdoor equipment that is subjected to a federal excise tax earmarked for conservation work by the states. This is commonly known as the American System of Conservation Funding (ASCF). ASCF is a "user-pays, public-benefits" structure, unique to the rest of the world, in which those that consumptively use public resources pay for the privilege, and in some cases the right, to do so. This funding System has allowed the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation to become recognized as the most successful conservation framework in history.

In order to keep this incredibly successful model viable, periodic fee adjustments to state-issued licenses and stamps are necessary to account for inflation and the rising costs of doing conservation work, as well as to allow state fish and wildlife agencies the ability to continue providing the range of services they have historically provided. With the financial contributions of Indiana's sportsmen and women, DNR works to provide healthy, abundant fish and wildlife populations through habitat improvements and species management, as well as improved access to public lands, recreational shooting facilities, improved water quality, soil conservation, and hunter and boater safety programs all with license and stamp fee revenues.



License and stamp fees have not been adjusted in over 15 years in Indiana and so it is time for these very modest adjustments to be made to secure the future of our state's fish and wildlife, and the recreational infrastructure that hunters, anglers, trappers, and recreational shooters depend on.

Thank you for your support,

- Ducks Unlimited
- Indiana Deer Hunters Association
- Indiana State Trappers Association
- National Marine Manufacturers Association
- Indiana Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
- National Deer Association
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever
- Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
- Indiana Wildlife Federation
- Delta Waterfowl
- Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable
- Ruffed Grouse Society/American Woodcock Society