

**First Regular Session  
Seventy-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. R23-0896.01 Jessica Wigent x3701

**SJR23-009**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Will and Roberts,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Lynch and McLachlan,**

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**Senate Committees**

**House Committees**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 23-009**

101     **CONCERNING THE COLORADO LEGISLATIVE SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS,**  
102             **AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, DESIGNATING APRIL 27, 2023,**  
103             **"SPORTSMEN'S DAY".**

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1             WHEREAS, More than a century ago, hunters and anglers were  
2     among the first conservationists who realized America's natural resources  
3     were in peril and could not sustain unregulated harvests and habitat  
4     destruction; and

5             WHEREAS, Hunters and anglers took it upon themselves to  
6     support laws that: Stopped excessive harvesting of fish and wildlife;  
7     established game and fish agencies to protect fish and wildlife and their  
8     habitats; and established special fishing and hunting license fees to help  
9     fund efforts to provide healthy natural resources for future generations;  
10     and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.*  
*Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

1           WHEREAS, Upon realizing that license fees alone were  
2 insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations,  
3 hunters and anglers supported excise taxes on firearms; ammunition; and  
4 archery, hunting, and fishing equipment to raise additional funds to  
5 support the restoration and enhancement efforts of state agencies; and

6           WHEREAS, This user-pay, public-benefit system became known  
7 as the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish  
8 Restoration Program that began with the passage of the  
9 "Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act" in 1937,  
10 which was bolstered by the passage of the "Federal Aid in Sport Fish  
11 Restoration Act" in 1950 and further expanded with the passage of the  
12 Wallop-Breaux amendments to the 1950 act in 1984; and

13           WHEREAS, Today, Colorado Parks and Wildlife is funded, in  
14 part, by sportsmen and women, through the American System of  
15 Conservation Funding, and this user-pay, public-benefit system is still  
16 widely recognized as the most successful model for funding fish and  
17 wildlife management in the world; and

18           WHEREAS, In 2021, Colorado's sportsmen and women generated  
19 over \$136 million through this system to support the conservation efforts  
20 of Colorado Parks and Wildlife; and

21           WHEREAS, Colorado's more than 1.2 million hunters and anglers  
22 contribute more than \$3.2 billion in statewide economic output per year  
23 while engaged in their pursuits, which supports over 25,000 jobs and  
24 generates around \$187 million in state and local taxes; and

25           WHEREAS, The stated mission of the Colorado Legislative  
26 Sportsmen's Caucus, a nonpartisan caucus formed in 2002 by the  
27 Sixty-third General Assembly, is to:

- 28           ● Preserve and promote the traditional rights of American  
29 citizens to hunt, fish, and pursue outdoor activities;
- 30           ● Ensure that America's sportsmen and women have  
31 reasonable access to public lands to enjoy outdoor pursuits;
- 32           ● Protect the investment of sportsmen and women in wildlife  
33 and fisheries management by safeguarding the integrity of  
34 user-fee trust funds;
- 35           ● Support efforts to enhance multiple-use habitat  
36 management for wildlife and fisheries;

