



By His Excellency Ned Lamont, Governor: an
Official Statement

*W*HEREAS, Connecticut has a rich history and storied tradition of hunting and angling that dates back further than the state itself and carries forward to this day; and,

*W*HEREAS, Hunting and fishing continue to be an integral component of the cultural fabric of communities throughout the state, and over recent years have offered a growing number of participants an opportunity to connect with nature on a personal level while simultaneously providing food security, a sense of self-sufficiency, and mental and physical health benefits; and,

*W*HEREAS, Connecticut's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Connecticut Bureau of Natural Resources to conserve fish, wildlife, and their habitat; and

*W*HEREAS, Hunting and fishing license fees helped fund state efforts to provide for healthy and sustainable natural resources, and upon realizing that license fees alone were insufficient to restore and sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations, sportsmen and women supported self-imposed excise taxes on firearms and ammunition, fishing tackle and motorboat fuels to raise additional conservation funds; and,

*W*HEREAS, To this day, the Bureau of Natural Resources within the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is funded, in part, by sportsmen and women, including \$17,592,477 last fiscal year alone, 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 conservation in the world; and,

*W*HEREAS, 176,432 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through their spending, contributing to the \$4.5 billion spent on outdoor activities in Connecticut last year; and,

*W*HEREAS, National Hunting and Fishing Day was established in 1972 to celebrate and recognize hunters and fishers for their immense contributions to fish and wildlife conservation and to our society; and,

*W*HEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection invites all Connecticut residents to celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day this year at a fun-filled daylong event at Black Rock State Park in Watertown, CT; now,

*T*HEREFORE, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby recognize the many and varied social, cultural, economic, and ecological benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and fishing and celebrate Connecticut's sportsmen and women, and do hereby officially proclaim Saturday, September 28, 2024, as

HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

in the State of Connecticut.

Ned Lamont

GOVERNOR

