



Attn: House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy
Re: House File 1531 – Hunting with Crossbows
Date: March 11, 2025
Position: Support

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy,

I write to you today on behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation in support of House File 1531, which removes the sunset date for the use of crossbows to take deer, bear, turkey, or rough fish during those species' respective archery seasons. Expanded opportunities for Minnesotans to use crossbows while hunting stands to increase hunter recruitment, retention, and reactivation while simultaneously contributing to the management of Minnesota's fish and game populations.

Founded in 1989, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

Crossbows benefit the hunting community by providing aging archery hunters an opportunity to continue to pursue their favorite species, as a dramatic decrease in archery hunters has been shown to occur as they grow older. Additionally, crossbows serve as an introduction to new methods of take to hunters that have only ever hunted with a firearm. A report released by the nearby Michigan Department of Natural Resources following its inclusion of crossbows in archery season found that about 19% of hunters using a crossbow had only previously hunted with a firearm. Further, similar to other archery equipment, crossbows are a useful tool for the management of deer populations in both urban and suburban areas, where concerns of human-wildlife conflict and damage to property and the environment are heightened.

In passing HF 1531, Minnesota would continue to allow unrestricted crossbow use throughout all big game seasons, as the majority of states across the country have already done. In the interest of recruiting and retaining hunters in Minnesota, as well as supporting the active management of fish and game populations in the State, I respectfully request that you support the passage of this bill. I thank you for the opportunity to express this support and welcome any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Robert Matthews

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