

February 9, 2022

Members of the Iowa House Committee on Natural Resources:

The National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc. (NSSF) is the trade association for the firearm industry. NSSF represents over 9,000 member businesses across the United States, including in Iowa, where over 2,750 Iowans are employed in the firearm industry. I write on behalf of NSSF in strong support of House Study Bill 609.

NSSF has worked for years to increase participation in hunting, gun ownership, and the shooting sports through R3 efforts. "R3" stands for Recruit, Retain and Reactivate. Today, NSSF leads R3 initiatives that include National Shooting Sports Month, +One, First Shots, #LetsGoShooting, and #LetsGoHunting, just to name a few. NSSF regularly partners with non-governmental organizations, government wildlife agencies, and wildlife organizations in other R3 projects. Wildlife is thriving because of collaboration like this.

As we work to recruit more hunters, it is important that hunting be as accessible as possible for aspiring youth hunters. Younger hunters and those of smaller stature have been left out of Iowa's turkey season over the years because they have not been permitted to use .410 shotguns. Shotguns in this caliber tend to have less recoil and are lighter to carry. Importantly, .410s have been shown to be effective and safe for taking turkey.

For these reasons, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc. is supportive of the bill to allow the use .410 bore shotguns for turkey hunting in Iowa. Thank you for your consideration of HSB 609.

Sincerely,



Christopher Lee