

Comment Report

Natural Resources

Date: 02/09/2022

Time: 01:00 PM

Location: RM 19

Name: Dr. Jason Wick

Comment: HSB 610 makes deer management a RLO and NRLO issue as it should be. Lone RLOs and farmers should not solely bear the brunt of herd control, crop damage and disease. It should be a joint RLO and NRLO responsibility that preserves the future of conservation. Also the acreage, 10 yr ownership, and conservation investment by NRLOs is adequate to qualify. Thanks

Name: James Woods

Comment: Regarding file 651. I guess that I am confused why this would be listed as a bill for consideration for a full committee meeting before it has come before the subcommittee for discussion and a vote. It makes it appear that this is a cut and dried situation where public input is not going to be considered or not wanted. I hope that this is not the way that this legislature is operating.

Name: Abe Ales

Comment: I would like to see the addition of 410 shotguns and TSS shot being allowed for turkey season. This edition would allow Hunters introducing smaller framed children to turkey hunting the opportunity to provide a lower recoil lighter weight option while still being able to effectively kill a turkey

Name: Eric Rector

Comment: HF 2057 legalizes the indiscriminate killing of raccoons and skunks, potentially at a time of year when young are relying upon their mothers for support. I'm not against the harvest and use of furbearing animals, but this bill promotes unnecessary killing of animals by loosely defining "damage". What's next, beavers and mink???

Name: Christopher Lee

Comment: I write to submit the attached letter of support for HSB 609 ahead of the House Natural Resources Committee hearing that is scheduled for tomorrow. This bill would require that .410 gauge shotguns be permitted for turkey hunting in Iowa. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important legislation.

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

Name: Jon Zinnel

Comment: IA House Committee on Natural Resources:Federal, Remington and HEVISHot Ammunition are domestic manufacturing companies that employ thousands of Americans across the country. Collectively we build the highest quality ammunition, including many options for turkey hunting. I am writing you today on behalf of these companies in support of House Study Bill 609. Please find attached a letter outlining our support of this effort. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding any questions. Kind regards,Jon ZinnelFederal, Remington & HEVISHot Ammunition



February 8, 2022

Members of the Iowa House Committee on Natural Resources:

Federal, Remington and HEVI-Shot Ammunition are domestic manufacturing companies that employ thousands of Americans across the country. Collectively we build the highest quality ammunition, including many options for turkey hunting. I am writing you today on behalf of these companies in support of House Study Bill 609.

The continued effort by our companies and others in the industry to recruit, retain and reactivate hunters is important to us and included in our mission statement. Youth and others headed afield in Iowa would benefit from being allowed to utilize sub-gauge shotgun options. Offering hunters, the ability to take advantage of advances in shotshell technology promotes two key priorities: the ethical harvest of turkeys, including reductions in wound loss, and second, opening the door to new and young hunters. These firearm choices offer smaller statured hunters with reduced recoil options and paired with products such as Tungsten Super Shot (TSS) or Bismuth, allow for a memorable, ethical harvest.

For the reasons listed above, our ammunition businesses support HSB 609 to allow the use of .410 bore and other sub-gauge shotguns for turkey hunting. We also urge the Committee to address the current shot size restrictions currently within the IA DNR regulations. The use of Tungsten and other high-density shot options are not only non-toxic selections, but the technology and performance of the high-density shot also offer a more ethical harvest when choosing to use sub-gauge firearms. We have provided suggested language to current regulations, here:

The only legal firearms for turkey hunting are: shotguns and muzzleloader shotguns ~~not smaller than 20-gauge~~ 10 gauge or smaller shooting shot size number 4 or smaller number 4 through 8 lead or nontoxic shot. Hunters may not have shot sizes other than number 4 through 8 on their person while hunting turkeys. Muzzleloading rifles may not be used to hunt turkeys.

Thank you for your consideration of HSB 609 and the inclusion of the shot size concerns outlined above. Hunting is experiencing a resurgence in activity, and corresponding increases in

the Pittman Robertson Wildlife Conservation Fund are advancing the state-based model of conservation in significant ways. We hope to continue this momentum and please consider us a partner in our shared interest of getting more people outside. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding any questions.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Zinnel', with a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line extending to the right.

Jon Zinnel
Conservation & Youth Shooting Sports
Federal, Remington & HEVI-Shot Ammunition

Name: Sven Lindquist

Comment: Please find attached SCI's comments on HB 609.



9 February 2022

Re: HSB 609-Turkey Hunting-Firearms

Dear Members of the Iowa House Committee on Natural Resources:

On behalf of Safari Club International, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2022 House Study Bill 609. SCI supports the underlying bill and would suggest a minor modification related to allowing nine shot or larger to be used.

Recruitment, retention and reactivation (R3) of hunters is critical for the long-term success of wildlife. Hunters have long paid the way for conservation, both game and non-game wildlife, and maximizing opportunity for hunting is also key to long-term funding for all conservation. Hunting benefits wildlife conservation. As such, allowing .410 shotguns utilizing 9 shot or larger is another step in the R3 process and ultimately the long-term funding for conservation. Technological advances in hunting equipment and shotshell technology address concerns regarding ethical harvest of turkeys and reduced recoil clears the way for youth and novice hunters to participate.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on HSB 609 and should HSB 609 move forward, SCI would encourage a modification regarding shot size. SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and is first for hunters.

Sincerely,

Sven Lindquist
President
Safari Club International