

**NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
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FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030-7400**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 9, 2016
TO: Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee
FROM: Travis Couture-Lovelady, State Liaison
RE: House Concurrent Resolution 5008

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to address you this morning on an issue important to NRA members and gun owners throughout Kansas. I am here today on behalf of the National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action to express our support for HCR 5008.

HCR 5008 would ensure that future wildlife conservation and management decisions are based on sound science in order to preserve Kansas' hunting heritage for generations to come. Language for the resolution includes the following:

"The people have the right to hunt, fish and trap, including by the use of traditional methods, subject to laws and regulations that promote wildlife conservation and management and that preserve the future of hunting and fishing. Public hunting and fishing shall be a preferred means of managing and controlling wildlife. This section shall not be construed to modify any provision of law relating to trespass, property rights or water resources."

Adding the Right to Hunt, Fish and Trap to the state constitution would Protect Kansas' rich sporting tradition from well-funded efforts by national extremist groups to ban hunting. This important constitutional safeguard will protect wildlife and promote conservation, which are efforts that Kansas sportsmen have spearheaded for generations, significantly contributing to the state's diverse and flourishing wildlife populations. If passed, the language contained in this resolution will be presented for a public vote in the General Election of 2016. Currently, 19 states have adopted some form of a right to hunt and fish constitutional protection.

On behalf of the National Rifle Association I respectfully request your support of House Concurrent Resolution 5008. Thank you for your consideration.