



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

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

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitat, and through their license fees helped fund state efforts to provide for healthy and sustainable natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, 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 hunting, fishing and boating equipment to raise additional conservation funds; and

**WHEREAS**, to this day, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is funded primarily by sportsmen and women, through this American System of Conservation Funding - a "user pays - public benefits" approach that is widely recognized as the most successful model of fish and wildlife management in the world and is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year; and

**WHEREAS**, last year alone, Tennessee's sportsmen and women generated \$62,936,162 through this System to support the conservation efforts of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency;

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee's 994,000 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through spending more than \$1.8 billion while engaged in their pursuits; and

**WHEREAS**, this spending supports over 26,389 jobs in Tennessee and generates over \$167 million in state and local taxes; and

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

**WHEREAS**, it is important to recognize the many and varied social, cultural, economic, and ecological benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and angling;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 23, 2017 as

*Hunting & Fishing Day*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this seventh day of July, 2017.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Lee Hargett*

Secretary of State

