



**Resolution of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Supporting
House Bill 640 (Outdoor Heritage Act) of the
2015 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly**

WHEREAS, the great State of North Carolina is blessed with a heritage of outdoor activities that has enriched the lives of our residents and travelers from across the country and world; and

WHEREAS, the value of North Carolina's outdoors is reinforced in North Carolina's constitutional declarations regarding the importance of preserving North Carolina's outdoor places as part of our state's common heritage; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 640, the "Outdoor Heritage Act," of the 2015 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly provides a comprehensive blueprint to protect North Carolina's rich outdoor heritage for future generations through focused investments in North Carolina's youth, increased public access and opportunity, protection of private property rights, and expanded hunting opportunities on Sunday; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission is to conserve North Carolina's wildlife resources and their habitats and provide programs and opportunities that allow hunters, anglers, boaters, and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy wildlife-associated recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Outdoor Heritage Act aligns seamlessly with the goals of the Commission's Strategic Plan, particularly in relation to investments in youth, access, and expanded opportunity; and

WHEREAS, in fulfilling its mission to provide opportunities for hunters to enjoy wildlife-associated recreation, the Commission adopted regulations in 2009 authorizing hunting on Sundays on private lands with archery equipment; and

WHEREAS, many North Carolina residents currently seek hunting opportunities in neighboring states that offer Sunday hunting, thereby generating economic activity outside of North Carolina instead of providing substantial economic benefits to rural areas and businesses within our borders; and

WHEREAS, expanding hunting methods on Sunday substantially increases the number of hunting days for youths during the school year and provides additional options for hardworking adults with limited weekend hunting opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the current prohibition against expanded options for Sunday hunting serves no purpose regarding conservation of North Carolina's wildlife resources and their habitats; and

WHEREAS, North Carolinians have been hunting on Sunday since 2010 without conflict; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission hereby affirms full support to House Bill 640, the "Outdoor Heritage Act," of the 2015 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly.

Approved, this the 21st day of April, 2015 in an official meeting by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Jim Cogdell, Chairman

Gordon Myers, Executive Director