

2015-J3027

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim Saturday, September 26, 2015, as Hunting and Fishing Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Hunting and Fishing Day

WHEREAS, New York 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, New York's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Fisheries, Game, and Forest Commission in 1895 (the precursor to the Conservation Department formed in 1911, and later the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) formed in 1970) to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitats; and

WHEREAS, Through their license fees, New York sportsmen and women 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 excise taxes on firearms and ammunition, as well as hunting, fishing, archery and boating equipment to raise additional conservation funds; and

WHEREAS, To this day, the NYSDEC's Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources 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 System of fish and wildlife management in the world; and

WHEREAS, Last year alone, New York's sportsmen and women generated over \$71.2 million through this System to support the conservation

efforts of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation;
and

WHEREAS, New York's 2.1 million hunters and anglers support the
state's economy by spending \$4.95 billion to engage in their pursuits;
and

WHEREAS, This spending supports over 56,000 jobs in New York and
generates \$623 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 contribu-
tions to fish and wildlife conservation, and to our society; now,
therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to
memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim Saturday, September 26,
2015, as Hunting and Fishing Day in the State of New York, in recogni-
tion of the many and varied social, cultural, economic, and ecological
benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and angling; and be
it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-
smitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New
York; the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; and
local, regional and national media sources so that all may know and
appreciate the contributions from hunters, anglers, recreational shoot-
ers and trappers on behalf of our state's natural resources.