NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION ===

HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

SEPTEMBER 24, 2022

WHEREAS, North Dakota has a rich and storied tradition of hunting and angling that predates statehood and carries forward to this day; and

WHEREAS, hunting and angling are an integral component of the cultural fabric of communities throughout the state and offer participants an opportunity to connect with nature on a personal level while providing food security, a sense of self-sufficiency and both mental and physical health benefits; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota hunters and anglers were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department to conserve fish, wildlife and their habitat, and through their license fees have helped fund state efforts to provide for healthy and sustainable natural resources; and hunters and anglers have further supported self-imposed excise taxes on hunting, fishing and boating equipment to raise additional conservation funds; and

WHEREAS, to this day, North Dakota Game and Fish is funded in part by hunters and anglers, through this American System of Conservation Funding — a "user pays, public benefits" approach that is widely recognized as the most successful model for funding fish and wildlife management in the world; and

WHEREAS, last year alone, North Dakota's 246,885 hunters and anglers generated \$29,248,374 to support the conservation efforts of North Dakota Game and Fish and supported the state's economy through their spending, contributing to the \$1,176,202 spent on outdoor activities in the state; and

WHEREAS, according to 2021 data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, on the national level sportsmen and women spent more than \$39 billion on hunting, fishing and recreational shooting, which does not include spending on items such as trips and travel, or license fees that were necessary for their participation — this spending helped fuel the outdoor economy, which comprised 2 percent of North Dakota's GDP that same year; 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim September 24, 2022, HUNTING AND FISHING DAY in the State of North Dakota.

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Doug Burgum GOVERNOR

Alvin A. Jaeger SECRETARY OF STATE