

## **A Proclamation**

### **Dedicating Saturday, September 23, 2017 as National Hunting and Fishing Day in the State of Nebraska**

*Whereas*, Nebraska 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*, Nebraska's sportsmen and women were among the first conservationists to support the establishment of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission 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 Nebraska Game and Parks Commission 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, Nebraska's sportsmen and women generated over \$26 million through this System to support the conservation efforts of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission;

*Whereas*, Nebraska's 289,000 hunters and anglers support the state's economy through spending more than \$780 million annually while engaged in their pursuits; and

*Whereas*, This spending supports over 12,085 jobs in Nebraska and generates over \$81 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;

*Therefore*, I Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, do hereby recognize the many and varied social, cultural, economic, and ecological benefits of our time-honored traditions of hunting and angling; and,

*Therefore*, Proclaim Saturday, September 23, 2017 to be National Hunting and Fishing Day in Nebraska, a day to be set aside in celebration of Nebraska's sportsmen and women.

Given under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Nebraska, this 20th of  
September, 2017