

WHEREAS, hunting, firearms and the shooting sports are part of the history, tradition, and culture of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, increasing access to education and shooting sports provides opportunity to safely learn to shoot and to responsibly increase public participation in shooting sports and hunting; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is not only responsible for the sound management and conservation of wildlife but also the teaching of principles of ethical hunting, firearms safety, and responsible firearm use; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of Arkansans, young and old, participate in hunting and shooting sports every year; and

WHEREAS, sportsmen and hunters teach others to understand the responsibilities of owning and using a firearm, while also working to ensure that our natural resources are safeguarded; and

WHEREAS, the firearm and ammunition industry contributed more than \$1.60 billion to the Arkansas economy in 2020 and supported 7,113 jobs; and

WHEREAS, those engaged in the shooting sports and hunting contributed more than \$11.5 million in funding for Arkansas wildlife and conservation efforts through the Pittman-Robertson excise tax levied on firearms and ammunition in 2020; and

WHEREAS, in August 2021, organizations, businesses and others will come together to recognize National Shooting Sports Month and to spotlight shooting sports activities enjoyed by millions of Americans and to continue to promote a culture of safety and responsibility; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Asa Hutchinson, Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby recognize August 2021, as

NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS MONTH

and encourage the people of Arkansas to safely participate in hunting and shooting sports.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the Governor of Arkansas to be affixed this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Asa Hutchinson
Governor