

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** hunting in West Virginia is enshrined in the state constitution, offering opportunities to connect with nature while providing food security and nutrition to hunters, their families and those less fortunate through community-based Hunters for the Hungry (HFH) programs; and
- Whereas,** 269,250 West Virginia residents—approximately 15 percent of the state’s population—struggle with food insecurity, an issue fundamental to West Virginia’s future that is exacerbated by rising food costs; and
- Whereas,** the Hunters Helping the Hungry program launched in cooperation with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) is hunters’ common-sense answer to fighting hunger, tapping into hunting’s role as an integral cultural component of Wyoming communities; and
- Whereas,** recent NRA Hunters’ Leadership Forum research shows that while American hunters share 119 million pounds of harvested game meat with others outside their households each year, many meat processors involved in HFH programs in 2022 did not receive enough donated game meat to fulfill their missions; and
- Whereas,** the West Virginia DNR is funded largely by hunters through the “user pays, public benefits” system known as the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, resulting in \$11,176,512 in Pittman-Robertson funding going back to the State of West Virginia in 2023 alone for its critical wildlife and habitat conservation programs; and
- Whereas,** promoting the West Virginia tradition of sharing our wild game harvests takes on even greater significance as we strive to protect hunting’s future and increase its cultural acceptance while promoting it as a food source, a right and a vital wildlife management tool; and
- Whereas,** the First Lady and I believe hunger is a problem we can help to solve together through West Virginia’s Hunters for the Hungry programs such as Hunters Helping the Hungry so that one day hunger no longer exists in our State; and
- Whereas,** the NRA and its millions of members have declared November 2023—and every November hereafter—Wild Game Meat Donation Month across America and encourage all hunters to do the same while donating surplus game meat and financially supporting local HFH programs as we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving and the season of giving.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim **November 2024** as:

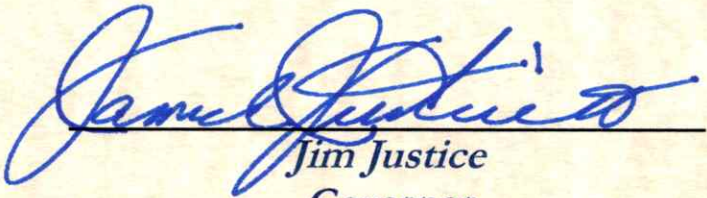
Wild Game Meat Donation Month

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance.


In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Thirteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Second year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State