

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.269

Reps. Cole, Wentworth, Maddock, Green, LaFave, VanSingel, Hoitenga, Lower, Markkanen, Meerman, O'Malley, Eisen, Lightner, Steven Johnson, Howell and Love offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to oppose the Natural Resources Commission's
2 proposed policy change requiring orange coloring on each side of a
3 hunting ground blind.

4 Whereas, The state of Michigan has a long tradition of
5 hunting. Hunting is the preferred means of managing wildlife
6 through sportsmen and women's responsible use of wildlife resources
7 in this state. Hunting has a significant and positive economic
8 impact on this state; and

9 Whereas, Individuals are required to wear hunter orange when
10 hunting during daylight hours from August 15 through April 30 with
11 only a few exceptions. In effect for over 40 years, the law is



1 meant to make hunters more visible to each other while in the
2 fields and woods of Michigan; and

3 Whereas, The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently
4 recommended to the Natural Resources Commission that hunters be
5 required to display at least 144 square inches of hunter orange on
6 ground blinds. The recommendation affects blinds located on both
7 public and private lands during a deer season in which wearing of
8 hunter orange is required. The department claims that this
9 requirement will reduce hunting accidents; and

10 Whereas, According to the DNR, overall fatalities and injuries
11 occurring during firearm deer season have been trending downward
12 for over 30 years. In the past three firearm seasons, 2017 to 2019,
13 there have been a total of 14 incidents in which individuals have
14 either shot themselves or another person. Of these 14 incidents,
15 only one involved a hunter in a blind and that individual
16 accidentally shot himself. Hunter orange on the outside of the
17 blind would not have prevented this incident; and

18 Whereas, Requiring hunters to post hunter orange on ground
19 blinds would simply be a burden on hunters with little relevance to
20 the proposed policy's supposed purpose of reducing hunting
21 accidents; and

22 Whereas, This proposal is a big government solution to a
23 problem that does not exist and could create new concerns including
24 violating the rights of private property owners and increasing the
25 theft of pop-up and other portable blinds used on public lands;
26 now, therefore, be it

27 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we oppose the
28 Natural Resources Commission's proposed policy change requiring
29 orange coloring on each side of a hunting ground blind; and be it



1 further

2 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
3 members of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission, the Director
4 of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the Governor
5 of Michigan.