



December 5, 2023

Senator Rob Stafsholt  
Room 15 South, State Capitol  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Chair Stafsholt and Honorable Members of the Financial Institutions & Sporting Heritage Committee:

On behalf of Safari Club International (SCI), I write in support of Senate Bill 587 which would update the language for defining a muzzle-loading firearm used for hunting in the state.

SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and promoting wildlife conservation worldwide. Our members, in Wisconsin and beyond, are dedicated conservationists who understand the importance and impact of updating state regulations in accordance with technological advances where appropriate to allow for a safer and more accessible user experience while afield.

Senate Bill 587 would allow for the use of encapsulated propellant charges for muzzleloading firearms in Wisconsin. Similar to other technological advances, encapsulated propellant charge for muzzleloaders is an advancement that increases the safety, reliability and access for hunting – specifically hunting with muzzleloaders in this instance. Like any other traditional muzzleloader, the sabot projectile is loaded via a ramrod into the barrel of a muzzleloader while an encapsulated powder charge is placed at the breach followed by the primer being inserted into encapsulated powder charge. This allows for an exact powder charge and completely waterproof design which ensures a more consistent, accurate and safe experience with muzzleloaders. Additionally, the ability to recognize the muzzleloader being loaded and then de-charged as needed becomes much simpler and safer by this type of design – which is still primitive by nature. Encapsulated propellant charges are currently legal in 27 states during muzzleloader season.

Thank you for your efforts to implement an accessible and safe user experience for hunters using muzzleloaders in Wisconsin. SCI supports Senate Bill 587 and is grateful for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

W. Laird Hamberlin  
CEO – Safari Club International/Foundation