



H.R. 1558/ S. 838 - Hunting, Fishing, and Recreational Shooting Protection Act H.R. 1445 - Outdoor Sports Protection Act

SCI SUPPORTS H.R. 1558/S. 838 & H.R. 1445

H.R. 1558 – Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL) & Rep. Mike Ross (D-AR)

S. 838 – Sen. John Thune (R- SD) & Sen. Jon Tester (D- MT)

H.R. 1445 – Rep. Paul Broun (R- GA)

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION NEEDED

Safari Club International requests Congressional support of companion bills H.R. 1558/S. 838 and H.R. 1445.

- **H.R. 1588 and S. 838 The Hunting, Fishing, and Recreational Shooting Protection Act** will remove the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ban traditional ammunition and fishing tackle containing lead components. The bill will clarify that the Pittman-Robertson excise tax exemption under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) applies to ammunition components and will provide similar protection for fishing tackle subject to Wallop-Breaux excise taxes. This legislation will protect our hunting, recreational shooting and fishing heritage while concurrently facilitating the important benefits these industries contribute to our nation's economy and treasured natural resources.

For more information or to become a cosponsor of the *Hunting, Fishing and Recreational Shooting Protection Act* please contact Diane Cihota (diane.cihota@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Jeff Miller's office, Lee Stewart (lee.stewart@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Mike Ross's office, Stephenne Harding (Stephenne.Harding@tester.senate.gov) in Sen. Jon Tester's office, or Adrian Arnakis (Adrian.Arnakis@thune.senate.gov) in Sen. John Thune's office.

Background: Last year, anti-hunting and fishing groups joined together to petition the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) to force the EPA to exercise its regulatory authority to ban traditional ammunition and fishing tackle containing lead components. The EPA denied the petition as to ammunition based on an exemption in TSCA for articles subject to Pittman-Robertson excise taxes. The EPA also denied the petition as to fishing tackle because the petitioners failed to show tackle represents a significant threat to human health or the environment. The petitioners have since filed suit in federal court challenging the denial of their petition.

We are unaware of any credible scientific evidence that shows that the current use of traditional ammunition and fishing tackle pose a threat to human health or wildlife populations, which would warrant any additional restrictions being imposed on hunters and anglers. A ban on traditional ammunition by the EPA exercising its authority under TSCA would not only affect hunters but would also extend to ammunition used for recreational target shooting, law enforcement and the U.S. military.

- **H.R. 1445 The Outdoor Sports Protection Act** will amend TSCA as in H.R. 1558, and would also prevent the Department of the Interior (DOI) and Department of Agriculture from instituting new bans on the use of traditional ammunition and fishing tackle on federal lands that are used for conservation. This bill would also incentivize states not to ban traditional ammunition and fishing tackle by making a state that limits the use of traditional ammunition and fishing tackle ineligible for apportionment from the Pittman-Robertson or Wallop-Breaux excise taxes. This bill would not affect any federal or state limitation on traditional ammunition and fishing tackle that is currently in effect.

For more information or to become a cosponsor of the *Outdoor Sports Protection Act* please contact Stephen Kraly (stephen.kraly@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Paul Broun's office.

Background: The TSCA petition is just the most recent in a long string of attacks on our cherished hunting and fishing heritage. The assault shows no signs of letting up. In the last two years, the National Park Service (NPS) has banned the use of traditional ammunition and fishing tackle containing lead components by its employees and contractors. The agency has also proposed a goal of implementing a full ban on the use of traditional ammunition and fishing tackle containing lead on NPS managed lands. Additionally, California, Montana, South Dakota, Iowa and Wisconsin have either introduced or proposed limitations on the use of traditional ammunition and fishing tackle containing lead. Legislation is needed to permanently address these ongoing threats.

Due to the high cost of alternative materials, bans or limitations on traditional ammunition and fishing tackle would result in exponential increases in the price of ammunition and tackle for both manufacturers and sportsmen. This increase in cost would reduce participation in hunting, fishing and the shooting sports as sportsmen are priced out of the market. The resulting decline in sales due to price increases could severely reduce the federal excise taxes that ammunition and tackle manufacturers contribute to wildlife conservation, which serve as the primary source of conservation funding in the United States.