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October 5, 2017

H.R. 3668, the “Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act”

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our organizations and millions of members, we strongly oppose and urge you to vote NO on H.R. 3668, the Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act (“SHARE Act”). This bill contains a broad range of dangerous provisions that would harm the environment and public safety, while failing to benefit hunters and sportsmen. Instead, H.R. 3668 contains a grab bag of unrelated provisions that benefit special interests like the National Rifle Association (NRA) and the gun industry.

The SHARE Act contains destructive provisions that threaten wildlife, public lands and marine ecosystems, erode bedrock conservation laws and policies, and undermine science. H.R. 3668 would prematurely strip Endangered Species Act protections from wolves in Wyoming and the Great Lakes region, allow the slaughter of bears and wolves in dens in Alaska National Park Service lands, and create a loophole in the Marine Mammal Protection Act that would undermine polar bear conservation. It would also eliminate the ability of the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) and the Department of Interior to protect human health and fresh water from toxic lead in ammunition and fishing tackle.

But the SHARE Act's most dangerous provisions are those that threaten the safety and security of the public. The bill would gut existing federal firearm silencer safety laws, undermine law enforcement action to protect the public from people who may be armed and dangerous, and let the gun industry—rather than law enforcement experts—decide what types of ammunition are too dangerous to allow on our streets. The legislation would also limit liability for any injury or death at a target range on public lands.

Title IV would remove gun silencers from the National Firearms Act (NFA), which would make it easy for individuals unable to pass a background check to be able to obtain these weapons through unlicensed sales, like many sales initiated on the internet and at gun shows. Currently, the NFA requires that an individual seeking to buy a silencer provide his or her photograph and fingerprints, pay a \$200 transfer tax, pass a criminal background check, and register the silencer with the federal government. The SHARE Act would do away with all of these requirements, making it easy for felons, domestic abusers, and other dangerous and prohibited people to buy firearm silencers.

Title XI of the SHARE Act would undermine state efforts to address the transportation of firearms across state lines. Additionally, this section would dramatically undermine and discourage state and local law enforcement's ability to effectively do their jobs by inquiring about the legality of ammunition and firearms in vehicles during routine encounters and traffic stops. Among other things, it would allow individuals to sue officers and their agencies, creating a serious personal disincentive for officers to protect the public's safety.

Title XVI would radically weaken the authority of the federal government to classify firearm ammunition as "armor piercing" and to regulate the importation of foreign firearms not suitable for sporting purposes. These sections pose a serious threat to law enforcement officers and drastically increase the types of military-style firearms that can be imported into the country from overseas.

The SHARE Act is a sportsmen's bill in name only. Special interests like the NRA and the firearm industry have completely taken over and derailed the sportsmens' agenda. The legislative provisions discussed above are completely unnecessary and do next to nothing to benefit sportsmen. Hunters and fishermen mainly want healthy wildlife populations and wildlife habitat where they can recreate, and this bill barely addresses these two things. At the same time, this legislation is laden with damaging, misguided provisions that undercut fundamental protections for wildlife and public safety. While not all the organizations who have endorsed this letter are engaged in every issue addressed above, we all strongly oppose the underlying bill. We urge you to stand up for the integrity of our laws that protect the security of the public and oppose H.R. 3668.

Sincerely,

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Center for Biological Diversity
All-Creatures.org
Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.
Animas Valley Institute
Basin and Range Watch
Bird Conservation Network
Black Warrior Riverkeeper
Bold Visions Conservation
Boulder Rights of Nature, Inc.
Brave New Films
Cascades Raptor Center
Ceasefire Oregon
Ceasefire Pennsylvania
Center for Large Landscape Conservation
Citizens Committee to Complete Refuge
Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection
CREDO
Doctors for America
Don't Waste Arizona
Eco-Eating
Empire State Consumer Project
Endangered Habitats League
Endangered Small Animal Fund
Endangered Species Coalition
Environmental Protection Information Center
Fairmont, MN Peace Group
Franciscan Action Network
Friends of the Abajos
Friends of the Earth
Fund for Wild Nature
GARDEN, Inc.
Global Exchange
Grand Canyon Trust
Grandmothers Against Gun Violence – Cape Cod
Greenpeace USA
Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History
Joint Action Committee
Klamath Forest Alliance
Massachusetts Forest Watch
Minnesota River Valley Audobon Chapter
Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance
Mountain View United Church
National Physicians Alliance
Network for Environmental and Economic Responsibility of United Church of Christ
North Carolinians Against Gun Violence
Northeast Oregon Advocates

NYC Coalition to Dismantle Racism in the Health System
NYS Pediatric Advocacy Coalition
One More Generation
Oregon Public Health Association
Physicians for the Prevention of Gun Violence
Predator Defense
Pride Fund to End Gun Violence
Progressive Change Campaign Committee
Project Coyote
Protect All Children's Environment
Public Citizen
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
Public Land Project
Raptors are the Solution
RESTORE: The North Woods
Safe Campus Colorado
Sailors for the Sea
The Enchanted Biscuit
The Regeneration Project
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Ventana Wilderness Alliance
Virginia Organizing
WAVE Educational Fund
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