

May 17, 2022

Chairman Ron Wyden
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Richard Neal
House Ways and Means Committee
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Mike Crapo
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Kevin Brady
House Ways and Means Committee
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Crapo, Chairman Neal, and Ranking Member Brady,

The undersigned organizations—representing millions of hunters, recreational shooters, professional societies, and other outdoor recreationists across the country—are writing to express our shared support for the American System of Conservation Funding as it is currently configured.

The 1937 Pittman-Robertson Act provides for a “user pays-public benefits” American System of Conservation Funding. The Act, which directs an excise tax on the sale of firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment, is a primary funding source for state fish and wildlife agencies who utilize the funds to undertake wildlife conservation, provide for hunter and recreational shooter recruitment, public shooting range construction and other activities. Last year alone, these excise taxes generated more than \$1 billion in funding to assist state wildlife agencies in fulfilling their missions.

The American System of Conservation Funding, thanks to the financial contributions of firearm, ammo, and archery equipment manufacturers, is widely recognized as the most successful wildlife conservation framework in the world. Recently, it was announced that the revenue generated and distributed by this excise tax eclipsed \$15 billion over the lifetime of the program. These user-supported excise taxes, combined with millions in funding generated annually through the purchase of hunting licenses and stamps, clearly demonstrates the long-standing commitment of members of the sporting-conservation community to personally invest in science-based conservation and wildlife management.

To that end, we are united in our shared support for the current “user pays-public benefits” system of wildlife funding. Among other things, generating all Pittman- Robertson funding from alternative sources would negatively impact our community’s unique relationship with state fish and wildlife agencies. Without the financial contributions of sportsmen and women and sporting manufacturers, the seat held at the decision-making table for hunters and recreational shooters may be lost. We respectfully request that you take these points into consideration before introducing or supporting legislation that would alter the status quo and may result in multiple unintended consequences.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your ongoing support for America's sportsmen and women.

Sincerely,

Archery Trade Association
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Bear Trust International
Boone and Crockett Club
California Waterfowl Association
Camp Fire Club of America
Catch-A-Dream Foundation
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Conservation Force
Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports
Dallas Safari Club
Delta Waterfowl
Ducks Unlimited
Houston Safari Club
Izaak Walton League of America
Masters of Foxhounds Association
Mule Deer Foundation
National Association of Forest Service Retirees
National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative
National Deer Alliance
National Rifle Association
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
North American Falconers Association
North American Grouse Partnership
Orion: The Hunter's Institute
Pheasants Forever
Pope & Young Club
Professional Outfitters and Guides of America
Public Lands Foundation
Quail Forever
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Safari Club International
Sportsmen's Alliance
Texas Wildlife Association
The Wildlife Society
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Whitetails Unlimited
Wild Sheep Foundation
Wildlife Forever

Wildlife Management Institute
Wildlife Mississippi

CC: House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Raul Grijalva
House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Bruce Westerman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Cmte. Chairman Joe Manchin
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Cmte. Ranking Member John Barrasso