

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 9, 2022

Dear Director Williams,

Thank you for your continued advocacy for sportsmen access and your decision to expand hunting and fishing opportunities on over two million acres last August. We understand that calls on the Administration to phase-out the use of lead ammo and tackle or otherwise reduce sportsmen access to our National Wildlife Refuges have resurfaced following the announcement that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has entered into settlement negotiations with Center for Biological Diversity regarding a lawsuit on a previous decision to expand access on wildlife refuges.

As you know, hunting and fishing activities play an integral role in the conservation and management of wildlife and aquatic species. The National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act of 1977 sought to leverage this conservation tool by ensuring hunting, fishing, and trapping would occur on any wildlife refuge where compatible. Passage of this law has led to the expansion of sportsmen opportunities across the country, including the expansion last August and the expansion currently under litigation.

Policies or actions that reduce or limit sportsmen activities necessarily implicate wildlife conservation programs by affecting state agencies' revenue. Such policies or actions also handcuff wildlife managers by removing a critical conservation tool while needlessly alienating one of our original conservationists, sportsmen. Phasing-out lead ammo and tackle on wildlife refuges would disproportionately affect lower-income households and those that depend on hunting and fishing for their subsistence as lead alternatives are often more expensive. The impact of such a policy would be devastating to the sportsmen heritage in our states.

We are encouraged that a sportswoman with first-hand knowledge of the intersection between federal policies and state wildlife conservation is leading USFWS in these discussions and encourage you to remain steadfast in defending sportsmen access. We stand ready to partner with you to continue expanding opportunities for sportsmen and sportswomen across the country.

Sincerely,



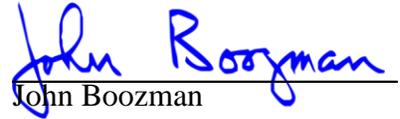
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United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
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Dan Sullivan
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Roger Marshall, M.D.



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



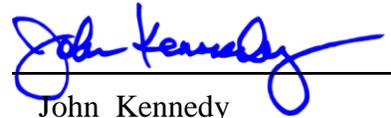
Cynthia M. Lummis
United States Senator



Rick Scott
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator



John Kennedy
United States Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



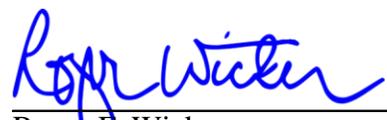
James M. Inhofe
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Mike Braun
United States Senator



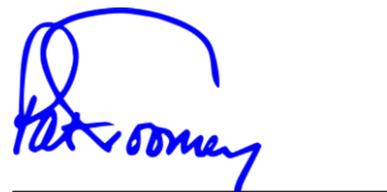
M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



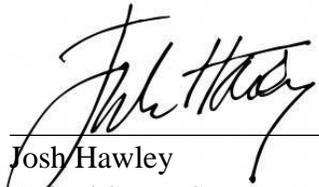
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