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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
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**Stop Bureaucratic Threats to Hunting and Fishing,
Support HR 4089**

April 16, 2012

Dear Colleague,

This week the House will vote on [H.R. 4089](#), the *Sportsmen's Heritage Act of 2012*. This bill has bipartisan sponsorship and was reported by a bipartisan vote of the Natural Resources Committee. The bill protects the traditional right of American sportsmen to fish and hunt from bureaucratic restrictions and limitations. It will remove government roadblocks to these activities on certain public lands and guard against new regulations that threaten to block or limit hunting and fishing. The bill will protect American jobs and economic growth by supporting recreational opportunities on these federal lands. It also reaffirms existing law barring the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from banning certain types of ammunition and fishing tackle, which will protect against lawsuits and bureaucratic maneuvers aimed at undermining current law.

This bill achieves four goals contained in four titles, each reflecting bipartisan stand-alone bills introduced by Rep. Dan Benishek, Rep. Jeff Flake, Rep. Don Young, and Rep. Jeff Miller:

First, the bill supports access for hunting and fishing on public lands. By implementing an "open until closed" management policy, it protects sportsmen from arbitrary efforts by the federal government to block public lands from hunting and fishing activities. However, it does not prioritize hunting and fishing over other multiple uses of public lands.

Second, it protects against unnecessary closures of certain public lands to recreational shooting. Last year, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) considered a plan to limit recreational shooting in certain areas. Due to public outcry over the proposal, Interior Secretary Salazar later abandoned the draft plan. However, there is no guarantee that the Administration will not attempt to make another bureaucratic maneuver to limit sportsmen's access. The bill requires the BLM to justify recreational shooting closures or restrictions on national monument lands.

Third, the bill eliminates government red tape for the importation of specific, legal hunting trophies. It is focused on resolving specific, existing cases and doesn't open the door to unlimited future imports.

Fourth, the bill protects the use of traditional ammunition and tackle. Despite a long-standing federal law banning the EPA from regulating lead ammunition, earlier this year the Center for Biological Diversity, along with over 100 other environmental groups, filed a petition with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) demanding a ban on all lead ammunition and lead in fishing tackle. A ban on traditional ammunition would drive up costs and limit citizens' ability to participate in recreational activities. H.R. 4089 would block an end-run around the existing law and bar the EPA from banning such ammunition.

The bill is supported by dozens of sportsmen, conservation and Second Amendment advocacy organizations. Visit <http://naturalresources.house.gov/Blog/> for a complete list.

We strongly encourage you to support the *Sportsmen's Heritage Act of 2012*. Please contact Jim Streeter (james.streeter@mail.house.gov) with the Natural Resources Committee at 6-7736 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Doc Hastings
Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee

Rob Bishop
Chairman, House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands