

Thank you, Chairman Fleming and Ranking Member Sablan. I am sincerely grateful to you both for including my legislation, the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Act, in today's Subcommittee hearing.

Over the past few decades there has been a steady decline in opportunities for recreational shooting activities in my Congressional district and throughout the country. As a lifelong sportsman, it is important to me for future generations of Americans to have the same opportunities to take part in these traditions as I did growing up.

My bipartisan bill will help achieve that goal and provide an economic boost to our sportsmen's communities by giving states greater flexibility with their Pittman-Robertson funds to build safe, high-quality shooting ranges. As you know, the Pittman-Robertson Act provides federal funding for certain wildlife restoration and hunter education programs through an excise tax on shooting equipment.

Rather than increasing federal funding, the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Act simply gives states greater flexibility in their use of already-allocated Pittman-Robertson funds for the purpose of improving or constructing public shooting ranges.

In turn, this legislation would help combat the loss of access and opportunity while helping those paying into the system---sportsmen and outdoorsmen--- get a better return on their investment. And it will come at no cost to the taxpayer.

My bill has been received with broad bipartisan support in the sportsmen's community and the House and the Senate because it is a win for sportsmen, conservation communities, and states. I look forward to working with the committee on this bill, and I thank you again for giving me the opportunity to speak today.