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October 20, 2017

Honorable Duncan Hunter
United States House of Representatives
2429 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Timothy Walz
United States House of Representatives
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Hunter and Walz:

We are writing on behalf of the Western Governors' Association to commend you for introducing H.R. 788, the *Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act (Training Support Act)*, bipartisan legislation to support shovel-ready infrastructure projects, promote public safety training and awareness, and enhance wildlife conservation efforts.

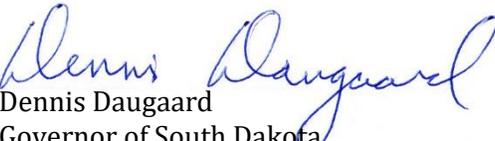
The Training Support Act would give western states more flexibility to use Pittman-Robertson Act funds for the development, expansion and maintenance of public shooting ranges. These new and expanded shooting ranges would support local economic development opportunities, as well as increase Pittman-Robertson user fees for future range development, training, and conservation projects.

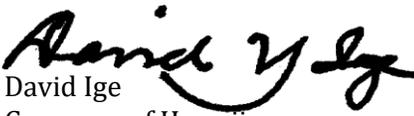
There are other advantages to enactment of the Training Support Act. Local shooting ranges operate as effective firearm education and safety institutions. Range staff and instructors not only promote safety and best practices, they demand them. As ranges expand, so too will their educational reach. Developed ranges also address several concerns on multiple-use federal lands in the West by enhancing the safety of recreational shooting on public lands, minimizing the potential for unintended wildfire, and maximizing the potential for recycling the lead and brass of target practice ammunition.

Enactment of the Training Support Act would also ensure that wildlife conservation funding, through the Pittman-Robertson Act, will continue for generations to come. The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Conservation Trust fund, responsible for \$11 billion in direct wildlife conservation and management initiatives since 1937, derives its funding through excise taxes levied on firearm, ammunition, and archery purchases. As more people engage in the shooting sports, more money is directed to the trust fund.

Thank you for your attention to this important subject. As Governors, we value the successful relationship of our federal and state wildlife officials, and we look forward to working with you on this important matter as H.R. 788 moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,


Dennis Daugaard
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Chair, WGA


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