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**Committee on Natural Resources**  
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**Opening Statement by**  
**The Honorable John Fleming**  
**Chairman, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs**  
**At The Legislative Hearing on H.R. 3065 and H.R. 3706**  
**Thursday, May 17, 2012**

Good afternoon, today we are holding a legislative hearing on two important legislative proposals.

The first bill, H. R. 3065, was introduced by the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina, Congressman Heath Shuler. His legislation will amend the Pittman-Robertson Act to allow states to use a greater portion of their allocated funds to construct and maintain public target ranges.

As the United States has become increasingly urbanized, the number of young men and women who engage in recreational hunting has significantly declined. In fact, in the most recent national survey, it was reported that 12.5 million people 16 years and older enjoy hunting for a variety of animals within this country. Two of the greatest challenges they face are the lack of adequate public hunting lands and shooting ranges. H. R. 3065 is a serious effort to address this latter problem and it is appropriate to propose this modification during the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pittman-Robertson Program.

The second bill we will hear today is H.R. 3706, a bill to create the Office of Chief Financial Officer of the Government of the Virgin Islands. It was sponsored by our former Natural Resources Committee Member Donna Christensen. In general, the bill would require the Governor of the Virgin Islands to appoint a Chief Financial Officer, with advice and consent from the Virgin Island legislature, picked from a list created by a Virgin Island Chief Financial Officer Search Commission.

As I understand it, the intent of the legislation is to provide the territory with a process to monitor its financial status. The chief financial officer would certify spending limits for the annual budget and if the budget is balanced. Financial management measures for the territory will also be revised and updated.

Similar legislation passed out of the Committee in 2004. However, there was opposition to that legislation, specifically from the then-Governor and legislature, regarding the ability of the chief financial officer to overturn decisions of elected officials. H.R. 3706 does not contain that language. I'm interested to hear testimony on the provisions and the need for H.R. 3706.