

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 615
OFFERED BY MR. WITTMAN OF VIRGINIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Access for
3 Hunters and Anglers Act of 2023”.

4 SEC. 2. PROTECTING ACCESS FOR HUNTERS AND ANGLERS

5 ON FEDERAL LAND AND WATER.

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in section
7 20.21 or 20.108 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations
8 (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), and
9 subsection (b), the Secretary of the Interior, acting
10 through the Director of the United States Fish and Wild-
11 life Service or the Director of the Bureau of Land Man-
12 agement, and the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through
13 the Chief of the Forest Service (referred to in this section
14 as the “applicable Secretary”), may not—

15 (1) prohibit the use of lead ammunition or tack-
16 le on Federal land or water that is—

17 (A) under the jurisdiction of the applicable
18 Secretary; and

1 (B) made available for hunting or fishing
2 activities; or

3 (2) issue regulations relating to the level of lead
4 in ammunition or tackle to be used on Federal land
5 or water described in paragraph (1).

6 (b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to
7 a prohibition or regulations described in that subsection
8 that are limited to a specific unit of Federal land or water,
9 if the applicable Secretary determines that—

10 (1) a decline in wildlife population at the spe-
11 cific unit of Federal land or water is primarily
12 caused by the use of lead in ammunition or tackle,
13 based on the field data from the specific unit of Fed-
14 eral land or water; and

15 (2) the prohibition or regulations, as applicable,
16 are—

17 (A) consistent with the law of the State in
18 which the specific Federal land or water is lo-
19 cated;

20 (B) consistent with an applicable policy of
21 the fish and wildlife department of the State in
22 which the specific Federal land or water is lo-
23 cated; or

1 (C) approved by the applicable fish and
2 wildlife department of the State in which the
3 specific Federal land or water is located.

4 (c) FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.—The applicable
5 Secretary shall include in a Federal Register notice with
6 respect to any prohibition or regulations that meet the re-
7 quirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b)
8 an explanation of how the prohibition or regulations, as
9 applicable, meet those requirements.

