

*** American Catfishing Association * American Sportfishing Association * American Woodcock Society * Archery Trade Association * Backcountry Hunters & Anglers * Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S) * Boone and Crockett Club * California Waterfowl * Camp Fire Club of America * Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation * Delta Waterfowl * Ducks Unlimited * Houston Safari Club * International Game Fish Association * Izaak Walton League of America * Major League Fishing * Marine Retailers Association of the Americas * Masters of Foxhounds Association * Mule Deer Foundation * National Bobwhite & Grassland Initiative * National Deer Association * National Professional Anglers Association * National Shooting Sports Foundation * National Wild Turkey Federation * North American Grouse Partnership * Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association * Orion: The Hunter’s Institute * Pheasants Forever * Pope and Young Club * Professional Outfitters & Guides of America * Quail Forever * Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation * Ruffed Grouse Society * Safari Club International * Sportsmen’s Alliance * Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership * Wild Sheep Foundation * Wildlife Forever * Wildlife Management Institute ***

November 1st, 2022

The Honorable Jack Reed
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services

The Honorable Jim Inhofe
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Service

Re: Support for America’s Outdoor Recreation Act of 2022

Dear Chair Reed and Ranking Member Inhofe,

The undersigned organizations, representing millions of hunters, anglers, wildlife professionals, and outdoor enthusiasts are writing to express our support for the inclusion of *America’s Outdoor Recreation Act of 2022 (S. 3266)* in the *James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2023 (S. 4543)*.

Beside its merits as good conservation policy, S. 3266 benefits military and law enforcement opportunities with enhanced and expanded access to shooting ranges to maintain proficiency, engage in deployment for training (DFT) exercises, and aiding recruitment.

Introduced by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Joe Manchin and Ranking Member John Barrasso, the bill expands outdoor recreation opportunities and facilitates greater access to federal public lands by streamlining recreation permits, designating shooting ranges on National Forest System and Bureau of Land Management lands, and modernizing America’s outdoor recreation resources. This increased federal investment in outdoor recreation areas is critical to expanding Americans’ access to outdoor spaces and recreation which will serve as a driver of many regional economies. To that end, we are united in respectfully requesting that you include this legislation in this year’s NDAA.

Permitting access to federal recreation areas often presents an unnecessary barrier for the American public to enjoy our greatest resource, the shared American landscape. By simplifying

permitting requirements for guides and outfitters, this legislation will make it significantly easier for Americans to access public lands with a guide.

In addition, expanding the number of shooting ranges and target facilities on National Forest System and BLM lands would result in a windfall—generated by the excise taxes that hunters and anglers voluntarily imposed on hunting and fishing equipment as part of the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts. That funding provides the lion’s share of funding for state wildlife conservation, law enforcement, and other important programs that promote hunting and fishing and sustainable populations of fish and wildlife species.

Finally, the provisions in this bill advance common goals that we support, including expanded access, infrastructure investments and better management of our public lands. This comprehensive recreation package will provide conservation benefits and critical economic support to local communities and address America’s diverse recreation needs.

For these reasons, we strongly support *America’s Outdoor Recreation Act of 2022 (S. 3266)* and encourage you to include this legislation in this year’s NDAA.

Thank you for your leadership and continued service on behalf of America’s outdoor heritage.

Sincerely,

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American Sportfishing Association
American Woodcock Society
Archery Trade Association
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S)
Boone and Crockett Club
California Waterfowl
Camp Fire Club of America
Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation
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International Game Fish Association
Izaak Walton League of America
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