



Arthur Belles <arthurbelles@gmail.com>

FW: For Immediate Release: House Natural Resources Committee Passes Legislation Protecting Sportsmen's Access

1 message

Don Sage <cpt00089@wildmoo.net>
To: Don Sage <cpt00089@wildmoo.net>

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From: DSN.10405.12891251.10392274@USSA.netcommunity1.com [mailto:DSN.10405.12891251.10392274@USSA.netcommunity1.com] **On Behalf Of** U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2011 6:30 PM
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U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance

801 Kingsmill Parkway, Columbus, OH 43229

Ph. [614/888-4868](tel:6148884868) • Fax [614/888-0326](tel:6148880326)

Website: www.ussportsmen.org • E-mail: info@ussportsmen.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Mike Faw [\(614\) 888-4868 x 214](tel:6148884868x214)

House Natural Resources Committee Passes Legislation Protecting Sportsmen's Access

Columbus, Ohio – Today the House Natural Resources Committee passed H.R. 2834, the Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act. This bill would protect fishing, hunting and recreational shooting on federal lands.

H.R. 2834 passed the Committee with strong bipartisan support by a vote of 29-14. This vital piece of legislation would require fishing, hunting and recreational shooting to be included in all federal land planning documents and would fix numerous inconsistencies in federal law that are being exploited by litigious environmental groups to reduce hunting opportunities on federal land. This bill is strongly supported by the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance, Safari Club International, the National Rifle Association, and millions of sportsmen across the country.

"This legislation is vital given the Administration's recent actions toward hunters and recreational sport shooters," said Melissa Simpson, Director of Government Affairs for Safari Club International. "Sportsmen have repeatedly sought to collaborate with the federal agencies and have been greeted with proposed closures in areas such as the Sonoran Desert National Monument, where the BLM intends to close the entire one-half million acre national monument to shooters. There are some 63 shooting sites within the monument, closure of which will end access for sportsmen. Passage of H.R. 2834 is necessary to protect against these anti-hunting policies."

"Sportsmen are increasingly facing attacks aimed at stopping them from using public land," said Bud Pidgeon, President and CEO of the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance. "This bill closes the loopholes that anti-hunters have used time and time again to try to deny access for hunting, fishing and shooting. Now is the time to put a stop to it. We are extremely pleased and appreciative that the House Natural Resources Committee recognized the importance of this bill."

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