

Hinojosa	Matsui	Sarbanes	Cramer	Jones	Ribble	Langevin	Nadler	Scott (VA)
Honda	McCollum	Schakowsky	Crawford	Jordan	Rice (SC)	Larsen (WA)	Neal	Scott, David
Huffman	McDermott	Schiff	Crenshaw	Joyce	Rigell	Larson (CT)	Nolan	Serrano
Israel	McGovern	Schrader	Culberson	Katko	Roe (TN)	Lawrence	Norcross	Sewell (AL)
Jackson Lee	McNerney	Scott (VA)	Curbelo (FL)	Kelly (MS)	Rogers (AL)	Lee	O'Rourke	Sherman
Jeffries	Meeks	Scott, David	Davis, Rodney	Kelly (PA)	Rohrabacher	Levin	Pallone	Sires
Johnson (GA)	Meng	Serrano	Denham	King (IA)	Rokita	Lewis	Pascrell	Slaughter
Johnson, E. B.	Moore	Sewell (AL)	Dent	King (NY)	Rooney (FL)	Lieu, Ted	Payne	Speier
Kaptur	Moulton	Sherman	DeSantis	Kinzinger (IL)	Ros-Lehtinen	Lipinski	Pelosi	Swalwell (CA)
Keating	Murphy (FL)	Sinema	DesJarlais	Kline	Roskam	Loeb	Perlmutter	Takai
Kennedy	Nadler	Sires	Diaz-Balart	Knight	Ross	Lofgren	Peters	Takano
Kildee	Neal	Slaughter	Dold	Labrador	Rothfus	Lowenthal	Peterson	Thompson (CA)
Kilmer	Nolan	Speier	Donovan	LaHood	Rouzer	Lowey	Pingree	Thompson (MS)
Kind	Norcross	Swalwell (CA)	Duffy	LaMalfa	Royce	Lujan Grisham	Pocan	Titus
Kirkpatrick	O'Rourke	Swalwell (CA)	Duncan (SC)	Lamborn	Russell	(NM)	Polis	Tonko
Kuster	Pallone	Takano	Duncan (TN)	Lance	Salmon	Lujan, Ben Ray	Price (NC)	Torres
Langevin	Pascrell	Takano	Elmets (NC)	Latta	Sanford	(NM)	Quigley	Tsongas
Larsen (WA)	Payne	Thompson (CA)	Emmer (MN)	LoBiondo	Scalise	Lynch	Rangel	Van Hollen
Larson (CT)	Pelosi	Thompson (MS)	Farenthold	Long	Schweikert	Maloney,	Rice (NY)	Vargas
Lawrence	Perlmutter	Titus	Fincher	Loudermilk	Scott, Austin	Carolyn	Richmond	Veasey
Lee	Peters	Tonko	Fitzpatrick	Love	Sensenbrenner	Maloney, Sean	Roybal-Allard	Vela
Levin	Peterson	Torres	Fleischmann	Lucas	Sessions	Matsui	Ruiz	Velázquez
Lewis	Pingree	Tsongas	Fleming	Luetkemeyer	Shimkus	McCollum	Ruppersberger	Visclosky
Lieu, Ted	Pocan	Van Hollen	Flores	Lummis	Shuster	McDermott	Rush	Wasserman
Lipinski	Polis	Vargas	Forbes	MacArthur	Sinema	McGovern	Ryan (OH)	Schultz
Loeb	Price (NC)	Veasey	Fortenberry	Marchant	Smith (MO)	McNerney	Sánchez, Linda	T. Waters, Maxine
Lofgren	Quigley	Vela	Fox	Marino	Smith (NE)	Meeks	T.	Watson Coleman
Lowenthal	Rangel	Velázquez	Franks (AZ)	Massie	Smith (NJ)	Meng	Sarbanes	Welch
Lowe	Rice (NY)	Visclosky	Frelinghuysen	McCarthy	Smith (TX)	Moore	Schakowsky	Wilson (FL)
Lujan Grisham	Richmond	Walz	Garrett	McCaul	Stefanik	Moulton	Schiff	Yarmuth
(NM)	Roybal-Allard	Wasserman	Gibbs	McClintock	Stewart	Murphy (FL)	Schrader	
Luján, Ben Ray	Ruiz	Schultz	Gibson	McHenry	Stivers			
(NM)	Ruppersberger	Waters, Maxine	Gohmert	McKinley	Stutzman			
Lynch	Rush	Watson Coleman	Goodlatte	McMorris	Thompson (PA)	Butterfield	Hoyer	Roby
Maloney,	Ryan (OH)	Welch	Gosar	Rodgers	Thornberry	Cook	Jeffries	Rogers (KY)
Carolyn	Sánchez, Linda	Wilson (FL)	Gowdy	McSally	Tiberi	Cooper	Kelly (IL)	Sanchez, Loretta
Maloney, Sean	T.	Yarmuth	Granger	Meadows	Tipton	Green, Gene	Napolitano	Simpson
			Graves (GA)	Meehan	Trott	Hastings	Palazzo	Smith (WA)
			Graves (LA)	Messer	Turner	Herrera Beutler	Palmer	
			Graves (MO)	Mica	Upton			
			Griffith	Miller (FL)	Valadao			
			Grothman	Miller (MI)	Wagner			
			Guinta	Moolenaar	Walberg			
			Guthrie	Mooney (WV)	Walden			
			Hanna	Mullin	Walker			
			Hardy	Mulvaney	Walorski			
			Harper	Murphy (PA)	Walters, Mimi			
			Harris	Neugebauer	Walz			
			Hartzler	Newhouse	Weber (TX)			
			Heck (NV)	Noem	Webster (FL)			
			Hensarling	Nugent	Wenstrup			
			Hice, Jody B.	Nunes	Westerman			
			Hill	Olson	Westmoreland			
			Holding	Paulsen	Whitfield			
			Hudson	Pearce	Williams			
			Huelskamp	Perry	Wilson (SC)			
			Huizenga (MI)	Pittenger	Wittman			
			Hultgren	Pitts	Womack			
			Hunter	Poe (TX)	Woodall			
			Hurd (TX)	Poliquin	Yoder			
			Hurt (VA)	Pompeo	Yoho			
			Issa	Posey	Young (AK)			
			Jenkins (KS)	Price, Tom	Young (IA)			
			Jenkins (WV)	Ratcliffe	Young (IN)			
			Johnson (OH)	Reed	Zeldin			
			Johnson, Sam	Reichert	Zinke			
			Jolly	Renacci				

NOT VOTING—15

Butterfield	Hastings	Roby
Cole	Herrera Beutler	Rogers (KY)
Cook	Hoyer	Sanchez, Loretta
Cooper	Kelly (IL)	Simpson
Green, Gene	Napolitano	Smith (WA)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
 The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1607

So the previous question was ordered.
 The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, February 25, 2016, I was absent during rollcall No. 90. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2406.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 241, nays 175, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 91]

YEAS—241

Abraham	Blackburn	Calvert
Aderholt	Blum	Carter (GA)
Allen	Bost	Carter (TX)
Amash	Boustany	Chabot
Amodei	Brady (TX)	Chaffetz
Babin	Brat	Clawson (FL)
Barletta	Bridenstine	Coffman
Barr	Brooks (AL)	Cole
Barton	Brooks (IN)	Collins (GA)
Benishek	Buchanan	Collins (NY)
Bilirakis	Buck	Comstock
Bishop (MI)	Bucshon	Conaway
Bishop (UT)	Burgess	Costa
Black	Byrne	Costello (PA)

NAYS—175

Adams	Cleaver	Foster
Aguilar	Clyburn	Frankel (FL)
Ashford	Cohen	Fudge
Bass	Connolly	Gabbard
Beatty	Conyers	Galleo
Becerra	Courtney	Garamendi
Bera	Crowley	Graham
Beyer	Cuellar	Grayson
Bishop (GA)	Cummings	Green, Al
Blumenauer	Davis (CA)	Grijalva
Bonamici	Davis, Danny	Gutiérrez
Boyle, Brendan	DeFazio	Hahn
F.	DeGette	Heck (WA)
Brady (PA)	Delaney	Higgins
Brown (FL)	DeLauro	Himes
Brownley (CA)	DelBene	Hinojosa
Bustos	DeSaunier	Honda
Capps	Deutch	Huffman
Capuano	Dingell	Israel
Cárdenas	Doggett	Jackson Lee
Carney	Doyle, Michael	Johnson (GA)
Carter (IN)	F.	Johnson, E. B.
Cartwright	Duckworth	Kaptur
Castor (FL)	Edwards	Keating
Castro (TX)	Ellison	Kennedy
Chu, Judy	Engel	Kildee
Ciциlline	Eshoo	Kilmer
Clark (MA)	Esty	Kind
Clarke (NY)	Farr	Kirkpatrick
Clay	Fattah	Kuster

NOT VOTING—17

Butterfield	Hoyer	Roby
Cook	Jeffries	Rogers (KY)
Cooper	Kelly (IL)	Sanchez, Loretta
Green, Gene	Napolitano	Simpson
Hastings	Palazzo	Smith (WA)
Herrera Beutler	Palmer	

□ 1614

So the resolution was agreed to.
 The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, February 25, 2016, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 91. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on H. Res. 619—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2406—Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Thursday, February 25, 2016, due to important events being held today in our district in Houston and Harris County, Texas. If I had been able to vote, I would have voted as follows: On the Cartwright Amendment to H.R. 3624, the Fraudulent Joinder Prevention Act, I would have voted "yea." On the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 3624, I would have voted "yea." On Final Passage of H.R. 3624, I would have voted "no." On the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 2406, Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act, I would have voted "no." On H. Res. 619, the resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 2406, I would have voted "no."

SPORTSMEN'S HERITAGE AND RECREATIONAL ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2406, the SHARE Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia? There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 619 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2406.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1616

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2406) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes, with Mrs. BLACK in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN).

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, before the House today is the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2016, better known as the SHARE Act. It is a package of commonsense bills that will increase opportunities for hunters, recreational shooters, and anglers; eliminate unneeded regulatory impediments; safeguard against new regulations that impede outdoor sporting activities; and protect Second Amendment rights. Similar packages were passed with strong bipartisan support in both the 112th and 113th Congresses.

Outdoor sporting activities, including hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting, are deeply engrained in the fabric of America's culture and heritage. Values instilled by partaking in these activities are passed down from generation to generation and play a significant part in the lives of millions of Americans.

Much of America's outdoor sporting activity occurs on our Nation's Federal lands. Unfortunately, Federal agencies like the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management often prevent or impede access to Federal lands for outdoor sporting activities. Because lack of access is one of the key reasons sportsmen and -women stop participating in outdoor sporting activities, ensuring the public has reliable access to our Nation's Federal lands must remain a top priority.

The SHARE Act does just that. One of the key provisions in the bill, the Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage Opportunities Act, will increase and sustain access for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting on Federal lands for generations to come. Specifi-

cally, it protects sportsmen and -women from arbitrary efforts by the Federal Government to block Federal lands from hunting and fishing activities by implementing an "open until closed" management policy.

Another provision in the package will give State and Federal agencies the tools to jointly create and maintain recreational shooting ranges on Federal lands. In addition, the bill allows the Department of the Interior to designate hunting access corridors throughout our national parks so that sportsmen and -women can access adjacent Federal lands to hunt and fish.

The package also protects Second Amendment rights and the use of traditional ammunition and fishing tackle. It defends law-abiding individuals' constitutional right to keep and bear arms on lands managed by the Army Corps of Engineers and ensures that hunters are not burdened by outdated laws preventing bows and crossbows from being transported across national parks.

Finally, the package prevents the implementation of onerous constraints by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on lawfully possessed domestic ivory products and eliminates red tape associated with the importation of 41 lawfully harvested polar bear hunting trophies.

This important legislation will sustain America's rich hunting and fishing traditions, improve access to our Federal lands for responsible outdoor sporting activities, and help ensure that the current and future generations of sportsmen and -women are able to enjoy the sporting activities our country has to offer and what we hold dear.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important election.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, 22 February 2016.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: During the week of February 22, 2016, the House will be debating H.R. 2406, the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Natural Resources, with an additional referral to the Committee on the Judiciary, among other committees.

At the request of Vice Chairman Cynthia Lummis, I ask that you allow the inclusion of the text of H.R. 3279, the Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act, as passed by the House of Representatives, as part of a manager's amendment to the bill. Mrs. Lummis is a cosponsor of the measure and has discussed this course of action with the bill's author. The Senate counterpart to H.R. 2406 already includes such a provision, and I believe it would be a substantial improvement to the bill and bolster its purpose of increased sportsmen's opportunities to hunt, fish and recreationally shoot. If the amendment is adopted, this action would in no way affect your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the amendment, and it will not serve as precedent for future amendments. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on the Judiciary represented on the conference committee on this matter.

Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the Congressional Record to document our agreement.

Thank you for your consideration of my request, and I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman,
Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, February 23, 2016.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BISHOP: I am writing with respect to H.R. 2406, the "Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015," which the House is scheduled to debate this week. As a result of your having consulted with us on the inclusion of the text of H.R. 3279, the "Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act," as part of your Committee's manager's amendment to H.R. 2406, I agree to allow the text of H.R. 3279 to be included in the amendment.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by allowing the inclusion of the text of H.R. 3279 in the manager's amendment, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in H.R. 3279 or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as H.R. 2406 moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving H.R. 2406, and asks that you support any such request.

I would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 2406.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, February 23, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On December 10, 2015, the Committee on Natural Resources favorably reported as amended H.R. 2406, the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015.

The reported bill contains provisions affecting import bans, a matter within the jurisdiction of the Ways and Means Committee. I ask that you not seek a sequential referral of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader this week. This concession in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Ways and Means represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the Congressional Record to document this agreement.

Thank you for your consideration of my request, and I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, February 23, 2016.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BISHOP: I am writing with respect to H.R. 2406, the "Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015," which the Committee on Natural Resources ordered reported favorably. As you note, several provisions of the bill affect the establishment and operation of import bans, a matter that is within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. I agree to forego action on this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 2406 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 2406.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, December 2, 2015.

Hon. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On October 8, 2015, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered favorably reported as amended H.R. 2406, the Sportsman's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Natural Resources, with an additional referral to the Committee on Agriculture, among other committees. My staff has shared a copy of the reported text with your staff.

I ask that you allow the Committee on Agriculture to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Agriculture represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources to memorialize our understanding, as well as in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and for the extraordinary cooperation shown by you and your staff over matters of shared jurisdiction. I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, December 8, 2015.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the opportunity to review H.R. 2406, the Sportsman's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015. As you are aware, the bill was primarily referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, while the Agriculture Committee received an additional referral.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I agree to discharge H.R. 2406 from further consideration by the Committee on Agriculture. I do so with the understanding that by discharging the bill, the Committee on Agriculture does not waive any future jurisdictional claim on this or similar matters. Further, the Committee on Agriculture reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees, if it should become necessary.

I ask that you insert a copy of our exchange of letters into the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, December 7, 2015.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On October 8, 2015, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered favorably reported as amended H.R. 2406, the Sportsman's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Natural Resources, with an additional referral to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, among other committees.

I ask that you allow the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources to memorialize our understanding, as well as in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and for the extraordinary cooperation shown by you and your staff over matters of shared jurisdiction. I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, December 8, 2015.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BISHOP: I write concerning H.R. 2406, the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015 (SHARE

Act). This legislation includes matters that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

In order to expedite Floor consideration of H.R. 2406, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will forgo action on this bill. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding that forgoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation that fall within the Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. Should a conference on the bill be necessary, I fully expect the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to be represented on the conference committee.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter and for agreeing to include a copy of this letter in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources, as well as in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, December 9, 2015.

Hon. FRED UPTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On October 8, 2015, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered favorably reported as amended H.R. 2406, the Sportsman's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Natural Resources, with an additional referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, among other committees.

I ask that you allow the Committee on Energy and Commerce to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Energy and Commerce represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources to memorialize our understanding, as well as in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your consideration of my request and for the extraordinary cooperation shown by you and your staff over matters of shared jurisdiction. I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, December 9, 2015.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2406, the Sportsman's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015.

As you noted, the bill was additionally referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and I agree to the discharge of the Committee from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects the Committee's jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not

serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I appreciate your support for my request to have the Committee represented on the conference committee.

Finally, I appreciate the inclusion of your letter and this response in the bill report tiled by the Committee on Natural Resources to memorialize our understanding, as well as in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, December 9, 2015.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On October 8, 2015, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered favorably reported as amended H.R. 2406, the Sportsman's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015. The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Natural Resources, with an additional referral to the Committee on the Judiciary, among other committees.

I ask that you allow the Committee on the Judiciary to be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may be scheduled by the Majority Leader. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on the Judiciary represented on the conference committee. Finally, I would be pleased to include this letter and any response in the bill report filed by the Committee on Natural Resources to memorialize our understanding, as well as in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your consideration of my request, and I look forward to further opportunities to work with you this Congress.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman,
Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, December 9, 2015.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BISHOP: I am writing with respect to H.R. 2406, the "Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015," which the Committee on Natural Resources recently ordered reported favorably. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 2406 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to discharge our Committee from further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 2406 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the

Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 2406.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I rise to oppose H.R. 2406, with great respect for my friend, the gentleman from Virginia. I respect very much what Representative WITTMAN and others are trying to do.

The best I can do to describe H.R. 2406 is a missed opportunity. Many of the titles in the bill are inoffensive, but others would significantly hinder conservation efforts that benefit hunters, anglers, and other lovers of the outdoors.

I myself am an avid hiker, Madam Chair. I just completed 25 miles on the Appalachian Trail in the snow last week in Representative GOODLATTE's district. I am up to 1,288 miles on the Appalachian Trail. I would love to see conservation efforts that protect the long-term legacy of the Appalachian Trail like the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Simply put, this bill doesn't include the sporting community's top legislative priorities. The Natural Resources Committee Democrats have been clear from the beginning that we are open to discussions that could lead to compromise legislation—legislation that would indeed include many of the pieces of this bill, but also additional titles that would earn it broad bipartisan support.

In a letter several days ago, Ranking Member GRIJALVA wrote to the chair expressing optimism that a non-controversial outcome could still be achieved and requesting negotiations to produce a bill that would pass the House without opposition. Unfortunately, this request was denied.

So I would love to have this bill on the suspension calendar, but not on the suspension calendar I would like to detail nine specific objections.

Objection 1, this bill omits the top two priorities of the outdoors community, the permit reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the permit reauthorization of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

LWCF has provided funding to help protect some of Virginia's most special places: the Rappahannock River Valley, Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Historic District, and the Appalachian Trail.

Studies have shown that for every dollar of LWCF invested, there is a \$4 return to communities. The broader outdoor recreation conservation economy is responsible for more than \$600 billion in consumer spending every year.

This is one of the Nation's premier programs. Over the years, LWCF has been responsible for more than 40,000

State and local outdoor recreation projects: playgrounds, parks, refuges, and baseball fields. There is strong bipartisan support. I believe 88 percent of Americans want Congress to preserve it. So now is the perfect opportunity to do that.

We have had hearings in the Committee on Natural Resources on Representative Chairman BISHOP's bill. We need hearings on Representative GRIJALVA's H.R. 1814, which has more than 200 bipartisan cosponsors. This bill was the perfect opportunity to include that bill.

It was also the perfect opportunity to do the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, NAWCA. It is a voluntary, nonregulatory conservation program. Farmers, ranchers, and other private landowners support the program, and every project is voluntary. It fosters conservation efforts by the non-Federal sector.

Over the years, nearly 5,000 corporate, small business, nonprofit, State, and local entities have tripled NAWCA dollars by providing matching funds. The 50 State wildlife agencies are all active partners in it, and demand for NAWCA continues to exceed available funds. So this was debated and thoroughly vetted in the 112th and the 113th Congresses. It was unanimously reauthorized by Congress in 2006, and this was a great vehicle to do that.

Objection 2, title X, I believe, which is the ivory title, this would gut the administration's proposed ivory rule. Last year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seized a 1-ton stockpile of illegal elephant ivory, most of which was seized from a Philadelphia antique dealer named Victor Gordon.

For at least 9 years, Gordon imported and sold ivory from freshly killed African elephants in violation of U.S. law and the laws of the countries where the elephants were poached and the ivory was stolen. While a ton of ivory was confiscated, there is no way to know how much Gordon had sold during the previous decade or where it is now.

How did he get away with it for so long?

The ivory was doctored so it looked old enough to pass through a loophole in enforcement of the African Elephant Conservation Act, a law that was passed by us in 1989 to end the commercial import and export of ivory.

The Obama administration's proposed ivory rule would close that loophole and prevent U.S. citizens from being involved—knowingly or unknowingly—in elephant poaching and the trafficking crisis. Ending the commercial ivory trade does not mean taking away the people's musical instruments, ivory-handled pistols, or family heirlooms. Museum collections, scientific specimens, and sport-hunted trophies will also be allowed to move freely. Neither the Fish and Wildlife Service's direct order nor the forthcoming Endangered Species Act rule restrict possession or transport within the United

States, and transport into and out of the country will still be allowed with the appropriate documentation.

Further, items up to 200 grams—7 ounces—of ivory can still be bought and sold, and that is more ivory than is in any piano or ivory-gripped pistol.

What the rule will do is stop profiteering off elephant parts in this country. As long as ivory has monetary value, people will kill elephants to get it. Eliminating value will eliminate demand, and it is a necessary component of the broader U.S. strategy to reduce wildlife poaching and trafficking.

I am disappointed that Ranking Member GRIJALVA's amendment to strike ivory was not made in order in the Rules Committee, but I understand no one wanting to vote on this floor to be in favor of killing more elephants. Regardless, the inclusion of that provision in this bill before us today shows that somehow we are unaware or unconcerned with the fact that poachers are slaughtering nearly 100 African elephants a day.

Objection 3, Madam Chair, is section 302 of SHARE Act that would allow polar bear trophies. It creates a loophole in the Marine Mammal Protection Act to allow a handful of wealthy trophy hunters to import polar bear trophies into the U.S. in defiance of current law.

If passed, this will be the fourth major carve-out by Congress since 1994 for Americans who have hunted polar bears in Canada. Although the number of polar bears affected by this loophole will be relatively small, the cumulative effect of the carve-outs has been detrimental to an imperiled species.

And these trophy hunters were not caught up in government bureaucracy or red tape. All the individuals hunted the bears after the George W. Bush administration proposed the species for listing as threatened under the Endangered Species Act despite repeated warnings from government agencies, hunting groups, and the conservation community that the trophies could face a bar on importation and that these hunters were hunting at their own risk.

Granting this request would create a dangerous precedent by encouraging hunters to race for trophies the moment any species is considered for listing when such species most need protection, knowing they can rely on Congress later to let them import their trophies.

Objection 4, the provision gives States the veto power on Federal fishing management and national marine parks, sanctuaries, and monuments.

I flew to Homestead, Florida, this past spring, Madam Chair, for their public hearing on the Biscayne Bay, a national marine that was set aside by the park service. It was a small, small percentage of the total Federal lands and waters. About half the fishermen there were for it and half the fishermen were against it, but it missed the fact that these were not State waters and

that we in Congress have a responsibility to the entire Nation, not just for any one county or one region.

Our oceans cover more than 70 percent of the Earth, and 99 percent of that water is open to fishing, but in some cases science shows that we must protect certain areas. We all want more people to have more fishing opportunities, but the fish have to be there.

I was impressed by something the director of NOAA told me a couple years ago, that the fishing marine reserves in the Pacific set aside by George W. Bush, you can now see them from space because the fish have recovered so quickly within those reserves, that the fishing vessels outline the perimeter of the reserve, which you can see from 100 miles away.

Objection 5, title 15 bars the Forest Service from restricting dog deer hunting on certain national forest lands in Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. The aim is to allow for a continued hunting of deer with dogs, which is an extremely controversial practice that pits landowners against hunters.

Landowners complained. This didn't come from overzealous environmentalists or Federal regulators. It came from landowner complaints to the Forest Service to ban deer dogging in the Louisiana Kisatchie National Forest.

□ 1630

Congress should let expert land managers manage land and other resources valued by all Americans. This decision to ban hunting deer with dogs was necessary to create balance among multiple users of the forest, and Congress should respect that.

Objection 6 is title IV that creates the Recreational Lands Self-Defense Act. This bill would actually prohibit the Army from developing or enforcing any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm at recreation areas administered by the Corps of Engineers. It is just hard to believe that we are going to restrict the Army from regulating gun use on Army property. If the Army is in charge of lands management, it should be able to determine whether firearms are appropriate on a site.

Army lands abut family homes and other sensitive sites. We should not lightly permit access in places where an accidental shot could wind up in someone's backyard or in a sensitive location. Accidental shots are real. A longtime family friend—a West Point graduate and a retired Army colonel—was sitting at his desk when a bullet, an accidental bullet, came through the window, hit him in the back of the neck, and he is a quadriplegic today.

Objection 7 is title IX that changes a successful program, the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act. On the Natural Resources Committee, we have heard much from the majority, appropriately, about how we need to deal with the incredible infrastructure de-

ferred maintenance backlog that we have on lands that we own. Basically, that we shouldn't buy more until we take care of what we already have. This would allow the existing act to take 100 percent of the land from land transactions and spend it on deferred maintenance.

This violates the whole original idea of the act: that we would sell Federal land to get more Federal land back. Furthermore, it makes these expenditures subject to appropriation. So if we bring in X million dollars in land sold, we don't have to buy or even use that X million dollars on new deferred maintenance. It could just go to—wherever.

I am disappointed that the bipartisan land-for-land PLTFA version that sportsmen in 165 groups have championed for a decade isn't included in the SHARE Act today.

Objection 8 is title VI. Currently over 75 percent of all Federal land is open to hunting and fishing, but title VI deems all Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service land open for hunting unless it is closed by the head of the agency through a long closure process. Right now, they can be closed by local land managers.

Once again, I find this a little ironic because so much of the theme from the majority, which I respect, is to move decisionmaking back close to the communities that are actually affected. In this case, they are moving it away from the communities and to Washington, D.C., to close these lands. It also undermines the Wilderness Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act.

Finally, Madam Chair, objection 9 is trapping. The SHARE Act would dramatically expand the use of body-gripping traps on Federal public lands, including in sensitive wilderness areas. The provision takes the step, unprecedented in Federal law, of adding trapping to the definition of hunting, then creating a presumption that all these Federal public lands are open. Millions of acres of land would be open to trapping.

Even under current law, roughly 6 million targeted animals are killed in traps every year, according to Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Held in a painful leghold trap, a beaver, a bobcat, a fox, will try desperately to break free in the hours or days until they succumb to dehydration, predators, or death at the hands of trappers. Traps are dangerous and they are indiscriminate in snaring not only targeted areas, but threaten endangered species, pets, or even unsuspecting children and adults.

Leghold traps have already been prohibited or severely restricted in nine U.S. States in over 80 countries. Congress should be acting to protect the public, endangered species, and pets from dangerous and indiscriminate body-gripping traps, not expanding their use into additional areas. Really,

how can trapping be described as sportsmanlike?

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his work on behalf of American sportsmen.

Madam Chair, three overarching goals should guide our Federal land policy. First, to restore public access to the public lands; second, to restore sound and proven scientific management to the public lands; and finally, to restore the Federal Government as a good neighbor to the local communities impacted by the public lands.

This measure does all three. It removes the arbitrary and capricious restrictions that are increasingly imposed on hunting and fishing by various Federal agencies; it enlists sportsmen in the long-neglected management of overpopulated species; and it gives more funds to States for recreational activities on public lands while encouraging greater participation by the public in developing these policies.

Outdoor sporting activities, including hunting and fishing and recreational shooting, are deeply engrained in the fabric of America's culture and heritage that are now under attack by the radical left.

In 2011, over 37 million Americans hunted or fished across the country. These traditional outdoor activities contributed over \$90 billion to the U.S. economy in 2011, much of it in the gateway communities to our public lands. Unfortunately, Federal agencies like the Forest Service and the BLM often prevent or impede public access for outdoor sporting activities. This is a large and growing class of complaints that my office fields in a district that includes five national forests in the Sierra Nevada of California.

One of the key provisions of this bill will increase and sustain access for hunting and fishing and recreational shooting on public lands by implementing an "open until closed" management policy. It also requires Federal agencies to report to Congress on any closures of Federal lands to these pursuits. Another provision would provide State and Federal coordination to create and maintain recreational shooting ranges on the Federal lands.

This bill protects the property rights of those who have acquired ivory products and other trophies over generations, long before any of this hunting was banned, and often passed on down through the generations within a family. It does absolutely nothing to imperil the protected species under current laws.

The purpose of the public lands can be found in the original Yosemite Grant Act of 1864: public use, resort, and recreation for all time. The SHARE Act recognizes our Nation's hunting and fishing heritage; it

strengthens the fundamental right of public use; it secures the vital role that recreational hunting and fishing play in resource management; and it guarantees the freedom to sustain that heritage for the many generations of Americans to come.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Chair, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2406. This bill is being described as a simple package to support hunting and fishing on Federal lands.

For fishing and hunting to be sustained, it must be done with a mind toward conservation. Unfortunately, this bill fails to achieve this need, and it threatens the very environment that supports the animals. Of course, by doing so, it endangers the sustainability and long-term viability of hunting and fishing, also.

Furthermore, this bill ignores scientifically based best practices, leaving these lands at risk. While there are numerous bad provisions in the bill, including allowing ill-advised ivory and polar bear importation and actually preventing scientifically based regulations, this bill is particularly troubling because it limits Federal management, lead ammunition, and fishing tackle.

We hear every day about the dangers of lead. The devastating impacts of lead poisoning are not just restricted to people. I have seen these dangers firsthand, as they are extremely apparent in my district on the central coast of California.

As anyone from California knows, the California condor, the largest North American land bird and an iconic species along the central coast, was on the brink of extinction, in large part due to lead poisoning. A looming threat to this species remains, so we must stay vigilant. In fact, this danger is so imminent that published research shows that the species is unlikely to survive unless we continue to substantially reduce the threat of lead in the environment.

The source of this lead is not a mystery. It is in large part the result of lead from hunting and fishing equipment. Lead poisoning is a terrible and cruel way for any animal to die. While the risk to condors is immediate, this risk is not limited in any way to this one species.

Continuing to pollute our lands and waters with lead ammunition and fishing tackle makes absolutely no sense. But the bill before us would keep the Federal Government from doing anything to address this issue. It is so dangerous and shortsighted.

That is why I offered an amendment at the Rules Committee which would have removed this dangerous language from the bill; but unfortunately, we will not be able to fix this problem on the floor because my amendment has been blocked from a vote. Despite its name, the SHARE Act would do little

good and a great deal of harm. This is a bad bill.

I urge my colleagues strenuously to oppose it.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Chair, I want to thank my friend from Virginia for yielding and for his leadership in bringing the SHARE Act forward.

I rise in strong support of this legislation that protects the rights of sportsmen and protects the rights of gun owners.

Madam Chair, I am proud to come from Louisiana, which is called the Sportsman's Paradise. We have great traditions of hunting and fishing throughout our State.

If you look at the barrage of regulations that have come out from this administration over the years, it has attacked so many different fundamental aspects of our society, so many things that make our country great. Of course, the right to hunt and fish is something that is not only a fundamental right for people, but it is actually something that brings families together. It is one of the great traditions that we love to share with our children. Our parents brought us hunting and fishing.

Yet if you look at some of the regulations coming out of these Federal agencies today, it is actually undermining those rights. What this bill is targeted at is restoring those rights, to make sure, for example, when you have got agencies like the Corps of Engineers that are trying to arbitrarily shut off lands for the ability of people to go hunt, they shouldn't be able to do that. In fact, under this legislation, they won't be able to continue doing that. No unelected bureaucrat should be able to limit the rights of law-abiding citizens.

Something else we have seen, Madam Chair, is the Environmental Protection Agency, unfortunately an agency we hear a lot about around this town, that is out there threatening jobs, taking away the ability for people to do things that are important to their everyday lives.

The EPA has been threatening to ban lead ammo and tackle. In this bill, we block the EPA from being able to ban lead ammo. Again, this is something that is fundamental to our rights as sportsmen, as hunters and fishermen, to be able to enjoy the fruits of our land.

There are over 50 sports organizations that are supporting this legislation. I just want to read from the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action: "The SHARE Act would give law-abiding gun owners more access to carry firearms on land managed by the Army Corps of Engineers, protect lead-based ammunition, and promote the construction and maintenance of public target ranges."

Madam Chair, it is important legislation. I encourage all of our colleagues

to support it and pass it over to the Senate.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ).

Mr. WALZ. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

I rise in support of the SHARE Act and the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act.

I thank my co-chair on the Sportsmen's Caucus, Mr. WITTMAN, for his work on this bill. Like so many you have heard here today, we, as a Nation, are blessed with an abundance of opportunities in the outdoors. Like so many, I take advantage of them: hiking, biking, hunting, and fishing.

For those who do participate in hunting and fishing, it truly is a passion, it is a way of life, and it is a heritage that we share with our parents. I don't think there is one of us who participated in it who doesn't remember a crisp autumn morning, waking up with our father, cooking breakfast, and going out to the field with the dew on the grass and the Sun coming up. To this day, I don't remember if we necessarily got a pheasant, but I remember my dad, and I remember talking about it.

It was on those trips that I think we understood that hunting and fishing, as a way of life, is not in a vacuum.

Hunting and fishing in Minnesota, 1.7 million Minnesotans participate in hunting and fishing. That contributes \$3 billion to our economy and creates 48,000 direct jobs. If you take that across the Nation, it is \$90 billion a year to our economy. That is not in a vacuum either, because we have a really unique system of conservation in this country: user pays and public benefits. Every shell and cartridge that is purchased and every fishing rod and boat that is purchased has an excise tax in it that goes back into the very conservation.

□ 1645

The people who are out hunting and fishing understand as well as anyone, if you don't have the proper habitat, you don't have the pheasants.

An organization like I belong to, Pheasants Forever, has literally put in all of the money and has leveraged this in order to turn tens of thousands of acres of the prairie back to virgin prairie, which are now abundant with game for people to take advantage of. Those are the types of things that make sense.

I understand the concerns that the gentleman expressed, and I understand that this is not a perfect bill. But I can tell you that it has been worked on for a long time and that it is a starting point.

There is a realization and an understanding that we have to compromise on issues. We are going to have to work with the Senate, and we are going to get this in front of the President.

Yet, I think most of us agree that our goal with this is to allow Americans to

continue to have their constitutional rights and their abilities to do those activities they want, whether that be hiking, whether that be mountain biking, whether that be hunting, or whether that be fishing and, at the same time, to make sure that there is an economic engine in it that contributes to the ability to keep those lands up.

I ask my friends to approach it with an open mind and to understand that this is truly deeply engrained in this culture. There are commonalities here. We have the same goals, to make sure these are available for our children.

If we can come together and work on this, we have to take this first step. We are becoming a more populated country, and there are fewer opportunities for people to get out there. Many people are not landowners themselves; so, the public lands are the only places at which these activities can take place.

There is enough out there. If we manage it right, we can share the land, as the act says, and we can do those activities that mean a lot to us and continue them for future generations.

I encourage my colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP), the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Chair, I thank Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. WALZ for working with our committee to bring this bipartisan bill together to protect hunting and shooting heritages.

One of the things that I, as well as many of my colleagues, hear repeatedly from our constituents is the complaint that land management agencies have blocked access to Federal lands. That especially goes for hunters and anglers and target shooters.

Our national monuments alone have already closed 928,000 acres to hunting and recreational shooting. Most of those areas are, unfortunately, easily accessible. You don't have to walk miles to try and get to them.

There are some who condemn this by saying that the vast majority of public lands is still open for hunting and shooting. The problem is the proximity.

The ones that are being closed are those that are easily accessible to especially those people who live in urban areas who don't have to go miles and miles to do it.

In addition to that, the problem is that the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service make no assessment on the impact of closing lands to shooters or to anglers.

They don't identify where the displaced recreationalists are being able to go, how far they have to travel, or what kind of access would be available to them. At a minimum, this bill forces them to take that into consideration.

I wish it were tougher language that would force them to make some kind of accommodations. But at least for the first time they are actually going to

consider those issues, because hunting and fishing and shooting are part of the multiple-use mandate for our public lands. There is no question about it.

I also want to make a couple of points very clear in that the language in title IV that deals with this bill, that deals with the Army Corps lands, allows law-abiding American citizens to carry firearms on Army Corps recreational lands.

The Army Corps is not the Army. There is a difference between the two. We are not talking about military lands, but recreational lands.

What this does is make these recreational lands that are owned by the Army Corps of Engineers compliant and parallel to the laws we have for the Forest Service as well as for the BLM and the Park Service, as it deals with carrying weapons as long as they are in compliance with State and Federal law.

Many Members think this is, basically, a hunting issue. It is not. The primary reason for this language has to do with the fundamental right of self-defense, and it does make it consistent.

I want to make two final points here.

The Natural Resources Committee strongly encourages the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service to develop agency-wide policies, in consultation with the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council and the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, that reflect the intent of this act. These policies should ensure that there is more access to America's Federal lands for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting.

These councils represent the interests and needs of sportsmen and -women who depend on having access to Federal lands for outdoor sporting activities.

I will also be reaching out to the Bureau of Land Management and to the Forest Service for regular updates on the progress being made in developing these policies within 30 days of each respective council meeting.

I appreciate the gentleman's compliance and understanding.

Vote for what is good about this bill, not for what is not there.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), my colleague and good friend.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in permitting me to speak on this bill.

Madam Chair, I, too, am a passionate advocate of public spaces, of outdoor recreation, and I understand the importance of protecting some of our Nation's most pristine places.

My constituents enjoy hunting and fishing and are involved in exploring the great outdoors. That is why it is unfortunate that what we have before us today is a piece of legislation that is unduly partisan and special-interest-oriented and is not speaking in terms of things that could have brought us

together in something that could have been a lovefest.

Why aren't we making a permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and making sure that it is funded?

Yesterday we had hundreds and hundreds of women from the Federated Garden Club of America, just one more group adding its voice to something that is supported by people who hunt, people who fish, people who hike, people who enjoy the opportunity of what the Land and Water Conservation Fund represents.

Instead, we are veering off. We are in the process now of having legislation in this bill that does pose serious problems in terms of environmental protections. I will give one specific example in terms of what is happening in the area of ivory.

Voters in Washington recently voted overwhelmingly to ban on a State level traffic in ivory. You are going to see this fall in my State of Oregon that an initiative is going to be approved that is going to close loopholes in terms of allowing trade in my State for ivory.

This has nothing to do with grandma's antique piano or somebody who has an ivory-handled pistol that has been in the family for years. We have a thriving international trade in ivory that is resulting in the destruction of a species. We are losing 100 elephants a day.

At the rate we are going, by the end of the decade—within 10 years—there will be no more wild African elephants. The trade in ivory fuels some of the most heinous acts by some of the most vicious people in the world.

Terrorists use these funds for their horrific activities, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, poisoning wells so that the animals are dying by the dozens, hacking off the tusks at that site.

We have to stop the trade in ivory. The United States is the second largest destination. We have China that is finally stepping up and working with us. We should not make it harder for the United States to crack down on the ivory trade.

There is no reason for a civilized society to continue trading in things like ivory tusks and products. It enables this black market to continue. People will find their way into it, and we will continue to slaughter elephants every single day.

What we should be doing is not restricting what the Federal Government is doing. We should be tightening it further like we will do in the State of Oregon.

I find it a little frustrating that people are talking about protecting traditional ammunition and fishing lure. I mean, there are some people who might say, in Flint, Michigan, using lead in the pipes is a traditional way of plumbing, but we figured out that that traditional mechanism is actually poisoning people.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. There are, in fact, alternatives if what you want to do is kill animals with guns. We don't need to do lead-based ammunition, which ends up in the environment. It ends up not just in what you are killing. It doesn't go away. It persists and adds to lead pollution.

There is no reason that we can't make changes in these policies that we know are destructive, that we know there are viable alternatives to that actually protect the environment.

As people work through this legislation and hear from animal welfare groups, sports people, and environmentalists and as they look at the problems that are associated with it, it is not a consensus, bipartisan bill.

It is an approach that actually leads us in the wrong direction. It is not rational. It is not popular. It is not based in sound policy. I strongly urge its rejection.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like respond just briefly to the gentleman's remarks concerning ivory.

If you look at the current state of regulatory efforts by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, for those nations that have sustainable elephant populations, it would actually make it much, much more difficult to manage them and it would actually encourage more poaching.

We want to make sure that we allow the legal trade of legally harvested elephants. In doing that, that makes sure that African nations can put in place sustainable programs for the harvesting of elephants, where there are overpopulations, to make sure that they have the wherewithal to put people on the ground to stop poaching.

This is a sustainable effort, I believe, that is critical, and these regulations will actually stop that.

Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK).

Mr. BENISHEK. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 2406, the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015, or the SHARE Act.

This legislation is vital in ensuring that Federal agencies like the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management can no longer continue to prevent or deny full access to Federal lands for activities like hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting.

Access to public, Federal lands for these heritage activities is not only an important part of our shared American value, it is also a significant contributor to national, State, and local economies.

In 2011, in the State of Michigan alone, over 1.9 million hunters and anglers spent over \$4.8 billion in hunting and fishing. To put this in perspective, spending by sportsmen and -women in Michigan generates over \$576 million in

State and local taxes each year. That is enough to support the average salaries of over 10,000 police officers.

Madam Chair, when I was a kid, my family owned a small hotel and bar. I worked by making beds, by filling ice buckets, and by hauling beer in order to save for college. Our business depended on hunters in the fall and winter and on fishermen in the summer. Without those sportsmen, we would have had no small business.

There are small businesses like this all over northern Michigan and across America today. There are also grandparents, parents, and children all across the country who are excited for their next hunting and fishing adventures.

That is why we must make sure that we do everything possible to ensure access to public lands for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting for all Americans, including for future generations to come.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the SHARE Act.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) for his leadership and for the service that he has given to this Congress. We are so delighted to have him join us. I thank the manager as well, his colleague from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN).

Madam Chair, in coming from Texas and knowing many of those who seek recreational hunting, fishing, and participation on lands, private and Federal, one wonders whether or not we could have found a way to deal with the concerns of our friends of whom I support: environmental groups and the Humane Society and just a litany of individuals from the Atlantis, the Alaska Wilderness League, the Alliance of the Wild Rockies, the Humane Society International, the Endangered Species Coalition, the Environmental Investigation Agency, the National Audubon Society, the Kentucky Heartwood, and just a whole array of individuals, the names of whom I will offer into the RECORD at another time.

□ 1700

This bill comes and specifically interferes with what I believe is the important protection, if you will, of items that impact our wilderness.

This bill undermines the NEPA Wilderness Act and the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act to solve a problem that does not exist. It blocks the administration's rule to restrict trade in African elephant ivory and protects African elephants from being slaughtered for their tusks. It adds indiscriminate and inhumane trapping practices to the legal definition of hunting and does not include a long-term reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a high priority for hunters and anglers.

My simple question is: Couldn't we have found some common ground and

not be supporting legislation that, for one, my amendment on polar bears will, in fact, impact; that the wealthy trophy hunters who shot bears had full knowledge of the pending rule? This is an issue that occurred when 41 polar bears were killed as the Fish and Wildlife Service finalized a rule listing them as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The polar bears are vulnerable. They are not yet under the Endangered Species Act, but they are vulnerable. So we have individuals who want to take advantage and seek to utilize the loophole. That is my opposition to this legislation, that it does not find a balance.

What it does do is it puts our animals in jeopardy, animals that make for the ecosystem in a positive way.

So I would ask my colleagues really to go back to the drawing board and come forward with a bill that actually protects animals, allows sport but does not undermine the whole ecosystem, undermine the structure of protecting animals, and certainly, in the memory of Cecil—although a lion—continue to kill our vulnerable species of polar bears just to have trophies.

I urge opposition to this bill.

Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2406, the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act of 2015 (SHARE Act).

While several of the proposals are non-controversial, the bill includes provisions that would seriously undermine the Wilderness Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Endangered Species Act, and fails to include important, bipartisan program reauthorizations sought by outdoor enthusiasts.

There are many for reasons for opposing this bill but I list just a few:

More than 75 percent of all federal lands are already open to recreational hunting, fishing and shooting, making the bulk of this legislation unnecessary.

Undermines NEPA, the Wilderness Act, and the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act to solve a problem that does not exist.

Blocks efforts to crack down on poachers and protect elephants from being slaughtered for their tusks.

Adds indiscriminate and inhumane trapping practices to the legal definition of hunting.

Does not include a long-term reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a high priority program for hunters and anglers.

Does not include important, bipartisan program reauthorizations that would provide critical funding for wetlands conservation and expanding hunting and fishing access; programs supported by hunters and anglers.

Exempts ammunition and sports fishing equipment from the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) despite the fact that EPA has no plans to regulate this equipment under the Act.

Mr. Chair, H.R. 2406 simply patches together a slew of legislative proposals, allegedly to enhance access to federal lands for hunting, fishing and recreational shooting.

The bill is opposed by virtually every leading environmental organization and the President has announced that it will be vetoed if presented to him for signature.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this unwise and unnecessary legislation.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS).

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2406, the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act; specifically, title IV of the bill, which includes the Recreational Lands Self-Defense Act. This legislation is vital to preserving and expanding the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens.

In 2010, legislation was enacted that allows campers, hikers, and sportsmen who are legally allowed to possess a firearm to protect themselves and their families on land operated by the National Park Service or the Fish and Wildlife Service. Unfortunately, this law left millions of acres overseen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers closed to those who want to legally arm and protect themselves.

Every year, millions of Americans camp, hunt, and hike on Federal lands. They are often in remote locations with no easy access to emergency services or law enforcement. These Americans deserve to have peace of mind and the ability to protect themselves while recreating.

The Army Corps of Engineers' interpretation of the law preempts State firearms laws; thus, preventing Americans from exercising their Second Amendment rights. Even if someone is permitted by the State to carry a firearm, they cannot do so while on the Corps' 11.7 million acres or camping at one of the Corps' 90,000 campsites.

Title IV will prevent the Corps from prohibiting law-abiding American citizens from carrying a firearm as long as they are not prohibited from owning a firearm and the possession of the firearm is in compliance with the State they are located in.

This title in the SHARE Act will provide uniformity and clarity for hunters, campers, and hikers who want to merely protect themselves, and it will preserve the right to bear arms on recreational Federal lands.

I want to thank Congressman WITTMAN for introducing this legislation and including the Recreational Lands Self-Defense Act in the underlying bill.

I urge my colleagues to support the SHARE Act.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chair, I inquire how much time the minority side has remaining.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WALKER). The gentleman from Virginia has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA).

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2406, the SHARE Act. Passage of this bill will increase opportunities and reduce regulatory burdens for all sportsmen and sportswomen.

I want to highlight two specific provisions in the SHARE Act that I sponsored. This legislation will authorize the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council, which will serve as an official advisory board to the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture on policies that benefit recreational hunting and wildlife resources. Authorization of the council is vital to ensuring that hunters maintain an advisory role in future administrations. This legislation will provide levels of certainty and stability necessary to ensure the council's ability to engage in assisting the Federal Government in devising and implementing long-term solutions that are necessary to address policy issues important to sportsmen and sportswomen.

The legislation also directs the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to create a new permit that authorizes a crew of five or fewer people to film for commercial or similar purposes on Federal lands and waterways at an annual cost of \$200. Aside from this set fee, no additional fees may be added during their time filming and photographing.

We want to rectify disparity in application and approval regulations between smaller crews and their larger, well-funded counterparts while filming on public lands. The financial burden is often too great and unfairly limits their ability to access our national parks and waterways.

As the former co-chairman of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus and a cosponsor of the SHARE Act, I believe this legislation will serve to the betterment of current and future generations of hunters and outdoorsmen and -women.

I thank the gentleman from Virginia for his work on this legislation, and I urge the passage of the SHARE Act.

Mr. BEYER. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, in closing, I would like to thank the co-chairs of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. WALZ, for putting this together.

I clearly resist the idea that our opposition comes from the radical left. The 37 million hunters and fishermen out there are not Democrats. They are not Republicans. They are both. They are not conservative or liberal. They represent all Americans.

Representative MCCLINTOCK and Chairman BISHOP talked about the 928,000 acres, BLM and Forest Service, which are closed now. I very much respect that that seems like a big number and that perhaps there should be movement on that.

I think the question is: Should those decisions be made by State and local land managers or moved to Washington, D.C., to the head of the Forest Service, to the head of BLM? I think it is weird that, in this body, we are talking about moving things to Washington for the decision to be made.

In fact, in the hearing we had on Chairman BISHOP's Land and Water Conservation Fund reauthorization, much of it was about moving the decisionmaking back to States and local governments. Perhaps there is a way to think about opening up these 928,000 acres with more input from State and local governments in the time to come.

On ivory and trafficking, Representative WITTMAN and I had a good conversation about how we really don't want it to address heirlooms that have been in the family for generations. That is not what the Obama rule is trying to do. We are looking at preventing trafficking.

Every 15 minutes every day, an elephant is killed. I would love to explore the economic argument that somehow this ivory rule will make African elephants more endangered. What we are trying to do is cut off demand.

Finally, Majority Whip Scalise talked about being hostile to hunting and fishing. I do think it is probably silly to think of the Army Corps of Engineers as a radical leftist organization. We want them to open the lands appropriately, but this is probably not the legislation to do it.

I think many of these provisions will likely be dead on arrival in the Senate. If it passes, as it is likely to do with the majority, I am looking forward to working with Representative WITTMAN, Representative WALZ, and others to get a good, bipartisan bill at the end of the day that we can all support for the hunters and fishermen of the United States.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for his perspectives on this and for the good conversation we have had in trying to find common ground to make sure that we are, indeed, supporting the great outdoors and the sportsmen and -women that enjoy the great outdoors. I thank him for his efforts there and look forward to continuing to work with him.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman WITTMAN for his leadership on this issue. As a vice chair of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, I commend the caucus co-chairs, Chairman WITTMAN and TIM WALZ, as well as my fellow vice chair, GENE GREEN, for the great work they have done to contribute to the SHARE Act's Sportsmen's package on the floor today.

The Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus is the largest bipartisan caucus in Congress. By offering commonsense policy solutions that expand the joys of hunting, angling, as well as shooting sports and, really, access to public lands and all the great outdoors, our goal is to be the voice of millions of American sportsmen and -women who treasure this unique feature of American heritage.

The SHARE Act is supported by the Nation's leading hunting and fishing conservation organizations, making it a bipartisan win for the sportsmen and -women of America. It includes the Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act; the Hunting, Fishing, and Recreational Shooting Protection Act; the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act; and the Hunter and Farmer Protection Act. These, along with many other hunting and fishing conservation provisions, will strengthen America's bond to the blessings given to our great country.

Most important to our role as leaders of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus is to promote policies that bring more potential hunters, anglers, and recreational shooters into the sportsmen's community. Sportsmen and -women are leading contributors to the conservation of the great American outdoors.

As a sidebar, I would just ask folks to really research the contribution that hunters make in the whole African elephant goal, because the lack of the hunter in that equation means there is more poaching; and I think, ultimately, that will be detrimental to the African elephant and detrimental to the goals of those who want to protect that.

In conclusion, I request your support for this bill to ensure that we can protect this sacred institution of American heritage.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from South Carolina for his leadership as vice chairman of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus.

We have heard a lot of, I think, good efforts today in wanting to ensure that our sportsmen and our sportswomen have access to Federal properties, to make sure they can enjoy outdoor sports. I think that is absolutely critical. That is what this bill is about. It is about clarifying to make sure that it is the legislative body that does the directing, not the bureaucrats. I want to make sure there is a balance there because we hear each and every day from our constituents about what they feel needs to happen with their land.

We must remember this land belongs to the taxpayers, and we must find responsible ways to make sure that there is access to that land for everyone. I want to make sure that we do that. I believe that this bill achieves that.

I understand, too, that we want to make sure that their voices are heard. Many times from the side of these agencies, they will consider comments, but many times the comments aren't included. This ensures that Congress has a role in defining what those opportunities are. I want to make sure those voices are heard. I can't help but believe that everyone here is in favor of making sure that their voices are heard and that opportunities exist across all these Federal lands for our

outdoorsmen, our sportsmen and -women of this Nation.

I want to make sure, too, that we are clear that all of us are against stopping the illegal trafficking of ivory. All of us here want to make sure that stops. I think there are reasonable and thoughtful ways that do that that don't inhibit the sportsmen who want to go there to be part of the legal process to harvest an elephant in the areas where there is an overpopulation. The dollars there are used to support local populations in that area, villages.

None of that animal is wasted. Every bit of it is used. The fees that are collected for hunters are put into stopping the poaching effort there. I think those are sustainable models to make sure that elephant populations continue in those areas and that we, indeed, have the ability and resources in Africa to stop those efforts by poachers.

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I think sustainable hunting is a way to do that. In any way impeding the flow of ivory back into the United States from legal hunting operations doesn't allow us to do that. Making sure, too, that it is simple and straightforward for owners of ivory to continue to own that, especially those pieces that are family heirlooms, and not have to go through a long, drawn-out bureaucratic process to prove that something is yours that has been passed down through family history where you may not have documentation to do that.

These efforts that U.S. Fish and Wildlife agencies are putting forward would make it in many instances very, very difficult for individuals and families to demonstrate that. Let's make this process easy and let's get at the issue, and that is the illegally harvested ivory that is coming out of Africa to the United States.

We talked, too, about access elements. We heard the number used that 99 percent of our ocean waters are open to fishing, to recreational fishing. But remember that the entire ocean is different in its habitats. So fish live in certain areas. I would argue that the 1 percent that is being closed off many times is the most productive area for fishermen. It is where the habitat rests. It is where the fish are.

So if you were to say, don't worry about it, you can hunt the entire Sahara Desert, that wouldn't mean much to sportsmen. The same that you are saying if you are allowed to fish these other areas that don't hold the habitat that allow fish to live in those areas also doesn't keep in mind making sure that recreational fishermen have access to the place where fish live. So I want to make sure that that is clear when we talk about these numbers, 99 percent versus the 1 percent.

Remember, this bill is not about what is not included. It is about really making those opportunities available for those men and women who hunt, fish, and use the outdoors. I am in full

support of LWCF. I am in full support of NAWCA. I do believe that we ought to reauthorize those pieces of legislation, and I do believe that there are mechanisms to do that. I believe that the vast majority of folks on our Committee on Natural Resources, as well as in Congress, want to see those things happening.

The difficulty always is in taking one bill and adding a bunch of different elements to it. I think those bills are important enough that they deserve their own level of debate and own level of attention about what we do in reauthorizing those bills.

I think folks outside the 90 square miles of Washington look at us and say, you know, why are you putting all these other elements into a bill rather than debating them individually?

I think we can put too much into a piece of legislation where it becomes confusing and it doesn't get after the true purpose behind the original bill. We tried to put together pieces that were similar in scope but didn't include other areas that really deserve their own level of debate.

So that is the reason that LWCF and NAWCA was left out of this, not by any intention to say we shouldn't address those, but by understanding that we have a responsibility to try to keep these packages of bills as simple and straightforward as we can.

Also, when we talk about lead, remember that the lead we talk about is in things like fishing sinkers. Remember, fishing sinkers are used in water. The gentlewoman from California talked about the issue with California condors. Well, California condors are not an aquatic bird, so I don't think we have to worry about them swimming in water and getting hold of these fishing sinkers.

The same way with bullets. I understand there are a few instances where they might have found a bullet associated with ingestion with a California condor, but the vast majority of shooting sports are put forth in legal ranges where the lead ends up in the ground. It ends up in the ground at a shooting range. Remember, that is the exact area where the lead came from. So returning it to the ground where we know eventually through the years it does indeed decay, it does indeed break down, those things are legal and I think environmentally responsible ways that lead is used in both hunting and fishing. Let's not stop those efforts. I want to make sure that those things happen.

If there are specific issues related to the California condor, I think we ought to address that, but these carte blanche one-size-fits-all efforts to say let's ban lead across the spectrum in the shooting sports, for hunting, and for fishing doesn't get at those root issues and it creates unnecessary burdens on folks who are using those in a legal way and in a way that doesn't affect our fish and wildlife populations. So I want to make sure that those things continue.

I do believe that there are many more areas of agreement than disagreement on this bill. I think that we have talked to folks on many aspects of this. It is different in its scope with the Senate bill, and I look forward to its successful passage out of this House and for our ability to bring it to a conference committee in the Senate and to work through those particular differences between the House and the Senate bill.

Mr. Chairman, I would urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2406, the SHARE Act.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I support H.R. 2406, the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act or SHARE Act.

Recreational hunting and fishing are some of the oldest traditions in America. I went on my first hunting trip in the early 70's and have loved gaming ever since. The sport was a great way to bond with my father-in-law and a great tradition to pass on to my own son.

I am not alone in enjoying this great tradition. Sportsmen and women contribute billions of dollars to the U.S. economy, support thousands of jobs and enrich our culture. Texas is home to 2,713,000 hunters and anglers, making it the second biggest state for sportsmen and women in the nation.

H.R. 2406, the SHARE Act, is supported by more than 50 of the nation's leading conservation groups and includes provisions that will expand access for hunters and anglers and protect the environment through conservation efforts.

The SHARE Act will protect access to BLM and U.S. Forest Service land for hunting and fishing, reauthorize the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act and allows fish and wildlife agencies added flexibility to construct public shooting ranges.

Ensuring future generations of Americans have access to these great traditions must be our priority going forward.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 2406, the SHARE Act. This legislation would protect 2nd Amendment rights and prevent unnecessary federal regulations from limiting access to outdoor sporting activities.

Activities like hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting contribute billions of dollars to our economy. But, it's impossible to put a dollar value on what they mean to millions of American families.

For many Texans—myself included—hunting and fishing are more than simple hobbies. They are family traditions that get passed down through generations. These traditions bring us together and teach invaluable lessons about gun safety and environmental responsibility.

Passing the SHARE Act will protect 2nd Amendment rights and help ensure that our sporting traditions can continue for generations to come.

I call on all my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise. The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr.

HILL) having assumed the chair, Mr. WALKER, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2406) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

HONORING THE FALLEN SOLDIERS OF THE 14TH QUARTERMASTER DETACHMENT DURING OPERATION DESERT STORM

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the soldiers of the 14th Quartermaster Detachment of the United States Army Reserve who were killed or wounded in their barracks by an Iraqi Scud missile attack in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm in 1991 on this date.

The soldiers of the Pennsylvania Army Reserve served with bravery and honor in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, and they will forever make western Pennsylvania proud.

Sixty-nine soldiers of the 14th Quartermaster Detachment stationed in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, were deployed to Saudi Arabia during this campaign. These brave men and women were supporting operations to liberate the people of Kuwait. Even though 13 of these soldiers gave their lives 25 years ago today—another 43 were wounded—the impact of their sacrifice and their loss has not faded and will not be forgotten.

We owe these soldiers and their families a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid, and we sympathize with the pain endured by those they left behind. May God bless them.

HONORING WADE HENDERSON

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, we are nearing the end of Black History Month. We had a special program yesterday recognizing foot soldiers of the civil rights movement. It reminded me of a man who is a foot soldier up here in Washington, Wade Henderson.

Wade Henderson is the president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and the Leadership Conference Education Fund. He announced he is going to be retiring after 20 years as the head of that organization at the end of this year.

Wade Henderson has worked with Republicans and Democrats both to bring about change in our country. He was largely responsible for work on the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act