



November 27, 2023

Senator Rob Stafsholt  
Room 15 South, State Capitol  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Chair Stafsholt and Honorable Members of the Financial Institutions & Sporting Heritage Committee:

On behalf of Safari Club International (SCI), I write in support of Senate Bill 586 which would allow hunters to use an airgun when pursuing game animals in seasons open to firearm hunting.

SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and promoting wildlife conservation worldwide. Our members, in Wisconsin and beyond, are dedicated conservationists who understand the importance of increasing opportunities and access to humanely harvest game animals.

Technological advancements with airguns, including large bore airguns, allow for the ethical and humane harvest of game animals, typically out to 100 yards. They are also helpful with introducing new hunters to the sport given their low recoil and low volume.

The sale of airguns, though, does not contribute into the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Wildlife Restoration Program, also known as Pittman-Robertson. This program is funded through excise taxes levied on traditional firearms, muzzleloaders, ammunition, archery tackle and other items, and goes to fund state-based conservation efforts. This funding is critical to on the ground conservation delivery for states; Wisconsin received over \$33.7 million in the last fiscal year alone through the Pittman-Robertson program.

In lieu of pursuing, and waiting on, a change to the federal tax law, SCI would encourage Wisconsin to require a stamp or permit for hunters who wish to pursue game with an airgun. This required purchase would then allow the state to use these funds toward matching Pittman-Robertson Funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

W. Laird Hamberlin  
CEO – Safari Club International/Foundation