April 7, 2025

The Honorable Harriet Hageman
U.S. House of Representatives
1227 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Val Hoyle
U.S. House of Representatives
1620 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Hageman and Ranking Member Hoyle,

We, the undersigned sportsmen and other conservation organizations representing millions of hunters, anglers, outdoor recreationists, and businesses across the United States, thank you for holding a hearing on H.R. 2316, the Wetlands Conservation and Access Improvement Act of 2025. This bipartisan bill will help conserve and protect wetlands across the nation and is strongly supported by the undersigned.

The passage of the Pittman-Robertson Act in 1937 shifted the paradigm of how conservation was approached, with hunters and recreational shooters leading the charge by providing much-needed funding to wildlife and their habitats through the redirection of excise taxes on firearms and ammunition (later amended to include archery equipment). This legacy of collaboration between sportsmen and women, state wildlife agencies, and firearm, ammunition, and archery equipment manufacturers was strengthened with the creation of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) in 1989. Together, these laws serve as critical resources to the foundation supporting our North American Wildlife Conservation Model.

Funds secured through the Pittman-Robertson Act support wildlife restoration, conservation, hunter education, and ultimately, recreational access through efforts led by state game and fish agencies. Because this transfer of funds from the federal government to state agencies does not happen immediately, the Pittman-Robertson Act allows the secretary of the Treasury to invest these funds in interest-bearing U.S. treasuries. Consolidating this interest with NAWCA funds enhances the effectiveness of both programs, which improve water quality and quantity through wetland conservation and ensure robust public access by enhancing our wild places.

H.R. 2316 will continue to allow Pittman-Robertson's interest investment in NAWCA conservation through 2033. Your leadership on this issue will ensure that funds captured through the Pittman-Robertson Act for critical wildlife conservation and habitat restoration are invested efficiently, providing the biggest bang for the buck for the American taxpayer.

We stand ready to work with our industry partners to advance this critical legislation and ensure its successful passage. We look forward to assisting you and your staff with this critical legislation, which will support the continued success of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation for the benefit of future generations.

Sincerely,

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
California Waterfowl Association
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Delta Waterfowl
Ducks Unlimited
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
Pheasants Forever
Quail Forever
Safari Club International
The Conservation Fund
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Wildlife Mississippi

CC:

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