

Sportsmen's Legislative Priorities for the 113th Congress

House Sportsmen's Priorities

The following is a synopsis of the sportsmen's legislative priorities identified by the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus leadership for the 113th Congress.

The Hunting, Fishing and Recreational Shooting Protection Act (H.R. 322)

This legislation specifically excludes ammo and fishing tackle from the Toxic Substances Control Act, leaving decisions about tackle to State Fish and Game Agencies and the Fish and Wildlife Service, who currently regulate ammo and tackle. The EPA has denied petitions to regulate tackle and ammo under TSCA in 1994 and again in 2011. This codifies that the EPA does not have the ability to regulate tackle. This includes a savings clause for local, state and other federal regulations.

Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act (H.R. 2463/S. 1212)

This legislation amends the Pittman-Robertson Act by adjusting the funding limitations. This allows states more funds available for a longer period of time for the creation and maintenance of shooting ranges. This legislation also encourages federal land agencies to cooperate with state and local authorities to maintain shooting ranges.

Public Lands Filming

This legislation directs the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, for any film crew of five persons or fewer, to require a permit and assess an annual fee of \$200 for commercial filming activities or similar projects on federal lands and waterways administered by the Secretary. This prohibits the Secretary, for persons holding such a permit, from assessing any additional fee for commercial filming activities and similar projects that occur in those areas during those hours

Polar Bear Conservation and Fairness Act (H.R. 1818/S. 847)

This legislation allows for the Secretary to authorize permits for re-importation of legally harvested Polar Bears from approved populations in Canada before the 2008 ban.

Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act (H.R. 1206/S. 738)

This legislation would grant the Secretary of the Interior permanent authority to authorize any state to issue electronic duck stamps. It also outlines electronic duck stamp application requirements.

Recreational Lands Self Defense Act (H.R. 2046)

This section prohibits the Secretary of the Army from promulgating or enforcing any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm at a water resources development project administered by the Chief of Engineers if: (1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm, and (2) the possession of the firearm is in compliance with the law of the state in which the project is located.

Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council Advisory Committee

This legislation permanently establishes the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council Advisory Committee to advise the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture on wildlife and habitat conservation, recreational hunting and shooting. The expenses of the Advisory Committee that the Secretaries determine to be reasonable and appropriate shall be paid by the Secretaries and no additional funds will be appropriated for the creation of this Advisory Committee.

Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage and Opportunities Act (H.R. 1825/S. 170)

This legislation would require the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service to keep their lands open to hunting, recreational fishing, and shooting and facilitate the use of and access to Federal public lands and waters for these activities, pursuant to reasonable exceptions. Access to areas to participate in these activities is one of the top reasons cited as to why sportsmen stop participating in their sports.