

National Shooting Sports Foundation* American Woodcock Society* Archery Trade Association* Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies* Boone and Crockett Club* Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation* Conservation Force* Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports* Delta Waterfowl* Ducks Unlimited* Houston Safari Club* Mule Deer Foundation* National Rifle Association* Quality Deer Management Association* Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation* Ruffed Grouse Society* Sportsmen's Alliance

[INSERT NAME/TITLE]
[INSERT ADDRESS]

Dear [INSERT],

The undersigned organizations, representing millions of hunter-conservationists, are writing to respectfully request your assistance in maintaining the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act (H.R. 788) as part of the final 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) conference report. Included in the House version of the NDAA, this bipartisan legislation is mutually beneficial to both service members and the sportsman's community.

H.R. 788 would, at no cost to the Department of Defense or the taxpayer, ensure that members of our military have greater access to new and improved shooting ranges within local communities. These additional opportunities would help to ensure that service members, including those of the National Guard, maintain and improve firearms proficiency, especially when a base range becomes overcrowded, there is not one in existence on the installation, or the Defense Department can no longer support the operation of one. As a result, this legislation would contribute to service readiness and morale.

In recent years, opportunities for all Americans to safely engage in recreational shooting and target practice have declined on both public and private lands. H.R. 788 would address this by allowing states to allocate a greater proportion of their federal Pittman-Robertson or Wildlife Restoration Funds to the establishment of designated shooting areas. The Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act would improve the safety of recreational shooting, create more opportunities for members of law enforcement and military to maintain firearm proficiency, provide areas for the public to engage in shooting sports, and assist in the recruitment of hunters and shooters.

In addition, the funds would extend the obligation period for Wildlife Restoration Funds available for range development to five years. Allowing this funding to accrue over multiple budget cycles would significantly enhance the ability of states to build and maintain shooting ranges.

For these reasons, we request your assistance in maintaining H.R. 788 in the 2018 NDAA conference report. Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your service on behalf of our nation's men and women in uniform and the hunting, shooting, and conservation community.

Sincerely,

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