

law abiding individuals to declare their ownership over certain magazines is an overt attempt to subvert their ownership, and it is for this reason that I encourage the members of the Committee to reject HB 2489.

In the United States, sportsmen and women play a crucial role in funding conservation efforts in through the American System of Conservation Funding (ASCF). The American System is a “user-pays, public-benefits” structure, in which those that consumptively use public resources pay for the privilege, and in some cases the right, to do so. State fish and wildlife agencies receive approximately 60% of their funding through this distinct conservation system, though some states still rely nearly 100% on the funding from sportsmen and women.

Through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson Act) and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson Act), excise taxes collected from sporting goods purchases as well as associated user license purchases are funneled back into conservation. These excise taxes are used to fund a wide variety of activities including: fish and wildlife research, private and public habitat management, hunter education, shooting range development, land acquisition and easements, and angler access area construction. Creating hurdles for the recreational shooting community to own “large capacity feeding devices”, sportsmen and women are likely to become disincentivized to participate in their pursuits. The Commonwealth, therefore, loses valuable conservation funds that are essential for fish and wildlife conservation efforts. Per-capita, the target shooting community spends even more money on firearms and ammunition than hunters. According to a National Shooting Sports Foundation estimate, “80 percent of Pittman-Robertson excise tax contributions are generated by sales attributed to recreational shooting.”¹

In recognition of the negative bearings that HB 2489 would have on Massachusetts’ sportsmen and women, along with the loss in conservation funds that the Commonwealth would likely experience, CSF stands in firm opposition. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this issue. Should you require additional information on this, or other sportsmen-related topics, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



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¹ *NSSF Commends Congress’s Passage of ‘Range Bill.’* Accessed on March 17, 2021. <https://www.nssf.org/nssf-commends-congresss-passage-of-range-bill/>.