

CONGRESSIONAL
SPORTSMEN'S
FOUNDATION

Attn: House Committee on Local Government
Re: Senate Bill 176 – Range Protection
Date: February 10, 2026
Position: Support

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Local Government,

I write to you today on behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) in support of Senate Bill 176, which would protect shooting ranges from being unfairly regulated by planning and zoning bodies seeking to prevent their establishment, use, or maintenance. Shooting ranges are essential for hunters' confidence in their abilities while afield while also providing a space for recreational shooters to safely participate in one of the most rapidly growing sports in the country. I respectfully request that you support the passage of SB 176.

Founded in 1989, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

Last year, Hoosier sportsmen and women generated more than \$48 million through the American System of Conservation Funding, and nearly \$15 million of that came from apportionments through the Pittman-Robertson Act. Commonly referred to as "PR dollars," these funds are derived from manufacturer-level excise taxes levied on outdoor sporting goods, including firearms and ammunition, and may only be used by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for purposes related to wildlife conservation, hunter education, or shooting range development. While the success of the Pittman-Robertson Act is widely credited to hunters, recent data from partners in the recreational shooting sports community suggests that upwards of 80% of current Pittman-Robertson tax revenue is being collected based on market demand among recreational shooting sports participants. Recreational shooting has seen tremendous growth over the last decade, and ranges provide a safe opportunity for shooters to practice while simultaneously contributing financially to their local economy and the state's wildlife resources.

I respectfully request that you support the passage of SB 176, which ensures that shooting ranges are preempted by state law and protected against local zoning authorities that may discriminate against the establishment, use, or maintenance of ranges. Doing so ensures that Hoosier sportsmen and women may continue to participate in our time-honored outdoor traditions and contribute to Indiana's conservation efforts.

Sincerely,



Robert Matthews

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Your Inside Connection to Outdoor Legislation