



December 18, 2019

TO: Arizona Congressional Delegation

RE: Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act, H.R.877

Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) is a 501c-3 non-profit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation, habitat work, youth recruitment and retention, as well as educating sportsmen and women on issues important to their passions. AZSFWC consists of 41 member, affiliate, and associate groups that reach across the spectrum of hunting, angling, shooting, outdoor recreation and businesses from all across Arizona. Our member groups represent in excess of 10,000 sportsmen and women from Arizona.

AZSFWC and 31 of our Member organizations have strongly supported the components of H.R.877, the [Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson for Tomorrow's Needs Act](#). This important legislation was introduced in a bipartisan fashion by Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC) Co-Chair Representative Austin Scott (R-GA) with the support of fellow CSC leaders Representatives Marc Veasey (D-TX), Debbie Dingell (D-MI), Richard Hudson (R-NC) as original cosponsors.

The Pittman-Robertson Fund (P-R) provides essential conservation funding by directing excise taxes on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment to state wildlife agencies for wildlife management, species and habitat conservation, scientific research, population monitoring, and hunter education and hunting access. These excise taxes, coupled with the purchases of hunting licenses, makes hunters, archery enthusiasts, and recreational shooters the nation's primary funders of wildlife conservation.

Last year alone, P-R contributed \$791 million to state wildlife agencies for on-the-ground conservation efforts. Unfortunately, this "user-pays, public-benefits" system of conservation funding that benefits all citizens is in jeopardy with the downtrend in hunting license purchasers over the last few decades.

In order to confront this challenge, state wildlife agencies need added flexibility to use P-R funds to develop and implement strategies to recruit, retain, and reactivate [\(R3\)](#) the nation's next generation of hunters and target shooters. Doing so will ensure that America's sportsmen and women continue to serve as a crucial source of funding for wildlife conservation that benefits citizens in every state.

H.R. 877 will provide necessary flexibility for state wildlife agencies by clarifying that one of the main purposes of P-R is to recruit, retain, and reactivate sportsmen and women.

AZSFWC support for Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund, H.R.877 – 12-18-19

The legislation places a cap on the amount of funds that can be spent on hunter and recreational shooter recruitment efforts to ensure conservation remains the primary focus of P-R while ensuring the long-term viability of revenue sources that fund state-based conservation across the country.

By supporting R3 efforts, this bill will help provide Arizona Game and Fish Department with increased funds for wildlife conservation efforts. Furthermore, H.R.877 would provide states with the flexibility to implement the [National Hunting and Shooting Sports Action plan](#), which is a comprehensive and strategic plan to implement nationwide R3 programs.

AZSFWC would respectfully ask that you support this important bipartisan legislation, and if possible, even consider co-sponsoring it!

To cosponsor the *Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Needs Act*, please contact Mark Sanders (Rep. Scott) at mark.sanders@mail.house.gov, or at (202) 225-6531.

Thank you for your support!

Yours in Conservation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Unmacht", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim Unmacht
Executive Director

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Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation
PO Box 75731 New River, AZ 85087



**AZSFWC Member Organizations Supporting
Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for
Tomorrow's Needs Act, H.R.877**

**Anglers United
AZ Antelope Foundation
AZ Bass Federation Nation
AZ Big Game Super Raffle
AZ Bowhunters Association
AZ Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation
AZ Chapter Safari Club International
AZ Deer Association
AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society
AZ Elk Society
AZ Flycasters Club
AZ Houndsmen's Association
AZ Outdoor Adventures
AZ Outdoor Sports
AZ Predator Callers
AZ Shooting Sports Education Foundation
AZ State Council of Trout Unlimited
Christian Hunters of America
Kahuna's Kids
Mohave Sportsman Club
Outdoor Experience 4 All
South Eastern AZ Sportsmen Club
Southern AZ Quail Forever
Southwest Wildlife Foundation
SRT Outdoors
The BASS Federation AZ
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Valley of the Sun Quail Forever
Xtreme Predator Callers
Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club
1.2.3.Go...**

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