

**Archery Trade Association \* Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies \* Bear Trust International \* Boone and Crockett Club \* Bowhunting Preservation Alliance \* Campfire Club of America \* Catch-A-Dream Foundation \* Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation \* Conservation Force \* Dallas Safari Club\* Ducks Unlimited \* Houston Safari Club \* Izaak Walton League of America \* Mule Deer Foundation \* National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses \* National Rifle Association \* National Shooting Sports Foundation \* National Trappers Association \* National Wild Turkey Federation \* North American Bear Foundation \* North American Grouse Partnership\* Pheasants Forever \* Pope & Young Club \* Public Lands Foundation \* Quality Deer Management Association \* Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation \* Ruffed Grouse Society \* Safari Club International \* Shikar Safari Club \* Texas Wildlife Association \* The Wildlife Society \* Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership \* U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance \* Whitetails Unlimited \* Wild Sheep Foundation \* Wildlife Forever \* Wildlife Management Institute**

May 18, 2010

The Honorable Sander Levin  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dave Camp  
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Levin and Ranking Member Camp,

The undersigned organizations, representing millions of hunter conservationists, are writing to urge passage of H.R. 510 as part of the tax "Extenders" or "Small Business" legislative packages currently being considered in the House of Representatives. Passage of this legislation this year is critical to wildlife conservation and the health of America's firearms and ammunition industries.

The firearms and ammunition industries represent the largest financial supporters of wildlife conservation throughout the United States having contributed over \$3 billion to habitat conservation and wildlife management through Pittman Robertson (PR) excise tax payments since 1991. Through their voluntary imposition of, and support for, these excise taxes, these industries continually demonstrate their commitment to the protection and betterment of America's natural resources. In addition, the hunting, shooting sports and the firearms industries make significant contributions to the betterment of our nation's economy, creating over 160,000 full-time jobs and generating over \$20 billion in economic benefit annually.

Despite these many contributions, firearms and ammunition manufacturers are currently subject to an onerous bi-weekly deposit schedule for payment of their PR excise tax contributions. This

frequency of payments represents a significant burden which results in the companies paying millions each year in unnecessary costs. Passage of H.R. 510 would permit firearm and ammunition manufacturers to make quarterly deposits of the excise tax bringing them into the same payment schedule as all other industries subject to PR. This would result in reduced complexities and greater consistency across industries. It is also critical to note that H.R. 510 is not a tax break and, upon its passage, manufacturers would still be required to pay PR excise taxes in full on a quarterly basis.

Funding saved by this simple adjustment to the excise tax payment schedule would be reinvested into creating and maintaining jobs, purchasing new manufacturing machinery, and expanding and enhancing efforts to recruit and retain new hunters, shooters and conservationists. In addition, the increased financial security would undoubtedly result in additional federal excise tax revenue being directed to the Pittman Robertson Trust Fund.

To date, H.R. 510 has 114 co-sponsors from across the political spectrum. Passage of this important legislation this year will serve to benefit wildlife conservation nationwide while concurrently ensuring the competitiveness of U.S. firearm and ammunition manufacturers. Therefore, we would be deeply grateful for anything that you can do to move this important legislation forward at the earliest opportunity. Thank you very much for your leadership and your ongoing service to our nation.

Sincerely,

Archery Trade Association  
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Boone & Crockett Club  
Bowhunting Preservation Alliance  
Catch-A-Dream Foundation  
Campfire Club of America  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
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Dallas Safari Club  
Ducks Unlimited  
Houston Safari Club  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Mule Deer Foundation  
National Assembly of Sportsmen's  
Caucuses  
National Rifle Association  
National Shooting Sports Foundation  
National Trappers Association

National Wild Turkey Federation  
North American Bear Foundation  
North American Grouse Partnership  
Pheasants Forever  
Pope & Young Club  
Public Lands Foundation  
Quality Deer Management Association  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Ruffed Grouse Society  
Safari Club International  
Shikar Safari Club  
Texas Wildlife Association  
The Wildlife Society  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation  
Partnership  
US Sportsmen's Alliance  
Whitetails Unlimited  
Wild Sheep Foundation  
Wildlife Forever  
Wildlife Management Institute

CC: Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus