



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

12 February 2019

The Honorable Austin Scott
2417 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Scott:

The Wildlife Society supports the “Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow’s Needs Act” (H.R. 877), as the bill is aligned with several of our core policies and aims to sustain and enhance current methods of funding state-based wildlife conservation activities.

The Wildlife Society serves to inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and their habitat through science-based management and conservation. Founded in 1937, TWS and our network of affiliated chapters and sections represents more than 15,000 professional wildlife biologists, managers, and educators dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship.

Our members and their work depend on the reliable stream of matched funding provided to state wildlife agencies by the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson Fund). Many of our members work for state fish and wildlife agencies, or partner with those agencies, and use Pittman-Robertson funds to implement critical wildlife management and conservation projects and conduct applied research to inform management activities.

Through Pittman-Robertson Act funding, wildlife professionals successfully manage and restore a wide diversity of bird and mammal species as part of state public trust obligations. Firearm and archery hunters, and all recreational shooters contribute to this program through their purchases, and have helped fund recovery and management of ecologically, socially, and economically important species such as white-tailed deer, bighorn sheep, wild turkey, waterfowl, and many others through the work of state fish and wildlife agencies and their partners.

We, like many others, are concerned by the apparent continued decline in the number of active hunters. Such declines, if they continue, could have long-lasting effects on the Pittman-Robertson Fund’s ability to support robust wildlife restoration and management projects. We encourage and support efforts in the conservation community to stem the decline and reverse this trend. H.R. 877 makes great strides in ensuring the continuation of hunting and shooting sports, and the funding they provide, by permitting state agencies to use funds allocated in certain sections of Pittman-Robertson for the promotion and recruitment of hunters and recreational shooters.

Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow’s Needs Act, as introduced in the 116th Congress, serves to secure the foundational role of hunters and recreational shooters in funding wildlife conservation, while retaining wildlife restoration and management activities as the key function of the Pittman-Robertson Fund. Thank you for your support of wildlife professionals and wildlife conservation by introducing this legislation.

Sincerely,

Darren Miller, PhD, Certified Wildlife Biologist®
President