

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 731

To reaffirm the authority of States to regulate certain hunting and fishing activities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. OTTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To reaffirm the authority of States to regulate certain hunting and fishing activities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Reaffirmation of State
5 Regulation of Resident and Nonresident Hunting and
6 Fishing Act of 2005”.

7 **SEC. 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY AND CONSTRUCTION OF**
8 **CONGRESSIONAL SILENCE.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—It is the policy of Congress that
10 is in the public interest for each State to continue to regu-

1 late the taking for any purpose of fish and wildlife within
2 its boundaries, including by means of laws or regulations
3 that differentiate between residents and non-residents of
4 such State with respect to the availability of licenses or
5 permits for taking of particular species of fish or wildlife,
6 the kind and numbers of fish and wildlife that may be
7 taken, or the fees charged in connection with issuance of
8 licenses or permits for hunting or fishing.

9 (b) CONSTRUCTION OF CONGRESSIONAL SILENCE.—
10 Silence on the part of Congress shall not be construed to
11 impose any barrier under clause 3 of Section 8 of Article
12 I of the Constitution (commonly referred to as the “com-
13 merce clause”) to the regulation of hunting or fishing by
14 a State or Indian tribe.

15 **SEC. 3. LIMITATIONS.**

16 Nothing in this Act shall be construed—

17 (1) to limit the applicability or effect of any
18 Federal law related to the protection or management
19 of fish or wildlife or to the regulation of commerce;

20 (2) to limit the authority of the United States
21 to prohibit hunting or fishing on any portion of the
22 lands owned by the United States; or

23 (3) to abrogate, abridge, affect, modify, super-
24 sede, or alter any treaty-reserved right or other right
25 of any Indian Tribe as recognized by any other

1 means, including but not limited to agreements with
2 the United States, Executive Orders, statutes, and
3 judicial decrees, and by Federal law.

4 **SEC. 4. STATE DEFINED.**

5 For purposes of this Act, the term “State” includes
6 the several States, the District of Columbia, the Common-
7 wealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Amer-
8 ican Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mar-
9 iana Islands.

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