

I talked to some people from the United Parcel Service, UPS. As to their fleet nationwide, a 5-minute delay per vehicle—because of congestion, because of lack of infrastructure investment—costs that company \$100 million a year—a 5-minute delay. Multiply that by everybody in the country and we are paying a high price.

The point is, we are paying a high price, but it is hidden. We do not notice it. If we increase the gas tax, everybody is going to notice that. But that is called paying your bills.

As a young man, I represented a client before the Maine legislature that was an engineering firm that was owed a bill by the State of Maine, and for some reason it had not been taken care of. I ended up appearing before the appropriations committee. This was 40 years ago. But I remember distinctly going before the committee and saying: Here is this bill and it has to be paid, and the members of the committee—by the way, the senior members were all Republicans—they looked at each other and said: We have to pay our bills. That is called governing, and right now we are not paying our bills. It seems to me that is what we have to do.

One interesting thing about the gas tax is—which, by the way, has not been increased since 1993, 21 years ago; it has fallen in value by something like 35 percent because of inflation over that period—but the interesting thing about the gas tax is, it is the only tax that is not effectively indexed. By that I mean the sales tax, which many States have—my State does—5 percent. You say: Well, that is fixed over time. It is not indexed. But it is because the value of goods to which the sales tax applies goes up over time. On a hundred-dollar tire, the sales tax, at 5 percent, is \$5. But 5 years from now, that tire is probably going to cost \$110, so it is going to be higher revenue. It is the same thing with the income tax. It may be at a flat level—22 percent or 15 percent or in Maine 5 or 6 percent—but incomes go up, so revenues go up proportionately to the changes in the economy.

The gas tax is a fixed number—18.4 cents. That is what it has been since 1993. It does not change at all. Do you think, Mr. President, the cost of building a road is the same today as it was in 1993—21 years ago? The answer is no.

We have to grapple with this. To me, what bothers me about this is it is part of a pattern. I started with Tom Brokaw and the “greatest generation.” If you think of the legacy that “greatest generation” left us—because they were willing to make sacrifices on our behalf—and then you say: What is the legacy of our generation? It is debt and it is crumbling infrastructure and it is the crippling of our ability to compete in a globalized economy. Shame on us.

I do not know exactly what the answer is. I do not know whether it is a gas tax, a mileage tax, a change of the tax to the wholesale level as opposed to the retail level. I do not know. But I do

know that no matter what we do, and no matter how much we try to avoid it, we are going to have to pay our bills; and to not pay our bills, we have to realize, is simply passing those bills to our kids. That is unethical. It is immoral, it is wrong, and it is not what our parents and grandparents did for us.

I think we owe the same level of consideration, the same level of sacrifice, the same level of realism, the same level of paying our bills to our children and grandchildren that we have been the beneficiaries of.

So I hope, as this debate unfolds in the next several weeks, that we pay attention to the critical importance infrastructure plays in the competitiveness of our society and in the future of our children. The “greatest generation” built the Interstate Highway System, and we cannot even keep it maintained. That is inexcusable. It is inexcusable, Mr. President, and I am sorry to be so preachy about this, but I think this is a really important issue, and I think it goes in some ways to the heart of our politics today where we are trying to do things and accomplish things but not pay for them. The point of my comments, though, is: They are going to be paid for; it is just going to be somebody else, that is, our children and grandchildren, who are going to be paying that bill. I think we ought to stand up and pay the bills ourselves and maintain the infrastructure this country needs to compete and give the same opportunity to our children and grandchildren we were given by the “greatest generation.”

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator from Maine withhold his suggestion?

Mr. KING. I withhold my suggestion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

#### BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, in a few minutes the Senate will vote on whether to invoke cloture on the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014—legislation I have introduced with my friend and colleague from Alaska, Senator LISA MURKOWSKI.

At a time when Washington is stuck in political gridlock, I am proud to have partnered with Senator MURKOWSKI to develop this sportsmen's package that is cosponsored by 46 of the Senators here in this Chamber—almost half of this body—19 Democrats, 26 Republicans, and 1 Independent.

We actually put politics aside to get behind a bill that benefits tens of millions of hunters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts across our country—a bill that protects our outdoor traditions for future generations and ensures the outdoor recreation economy can continue to support jobs and local communities in our States nationwide.

This kind of widespread bipartisan support has been virtually unheard of

in these days. And not surprisingly, the list of organizations that support the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act is equally long and diverse. More than 40 organizations that span the ideological spectrum have actually endorsed this bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that six letters and statements of support that I have received on the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Congressional Sportmen's Foundation, Feb. 4, 2014]

#### CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS CO-CHAIR INTRODUCES BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014

WASHINGTON, DC.—Today, in a significant advancement for sportsmen and women across the country, members of the Senate Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC) introduced the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014. Introduced by CSC Senate Co-Chair, Senator Kay Hagan and CSC member Senator Lisa Murkowski, this bipartisan legislative package includes 12 bills that would ensure our sportsmen's traditions are protected and advanced, and addresses some of the most current concerns of American hunters and recreational anglers and shooters.

The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act is cosponsored by CSC Vice-Chair, Sen. Mark Pryor and CSC members, Sens. Mark Begich, John Boozman, Dean Heller, John Hoeven, Mary Landrieu, Joe Manchin, Rob Portman, Jon Tester and David Vitter.

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) President, Jeff Crane praised the introduction of this vital legislation. “We thank CSC Co-Chair Senator Hagan and CSC member Senator Murkowski for introducing this bipartisan package of legislation that includes provisions vital to protecting our hunting and angling traditions in the U.S., which the CSC and organizations within the sportsmen's community have been working on for years.”

The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act contains six bills that are also found in the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act (H.R. 3590), which has been introduced in the House of Representatives by House CSC Co-Chairs, Representatives Bob Latta and Bennie Thompson and Vice-Chairs, Representatives Rob Wittman and Tim Vvalz. Similar provisions include protecting traditional lead ammunition and fishing tackle from unwarranted regulation under the Toxic Substances Control Act, amending the Pittman-Robertson Act to allocate a greater proportion of funding for shooting ranges, allowing film crews of five or fewer persons on federal lands with an annual permit for \$200, and allowing the Secretary of Interior to authorize a permanent electronic duck stamp, among others.

“I am proud to have partnered with Senator Lisa Murkowski to develop the bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014,” said CSC Co-Chair, Sen. Kay Hagan. “In North Carolina, hunting, fishing and shooting are a way of life. Many of these traditions have been handed down through my own family, and I'm proud that our bill protects these activities for future generations while ensuring that outdoor recreation can continue to support jobs and local economies across the country. At a time when Washington is stuck in political gridlock, our bill demonstrates that Democrats and Republicans can work together to find common ground, and I look forward to working with Senator

Murkowski to advance this package through the Senate and into law."

In addition to the bills shared by H.R. 3590, priorities in the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act include: reauthorization of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, which allows the Bureau of Land Management to sell land to private owners for ranching, community development, and conservation projects; reauthorization of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act; and "Making Public Lands Public," which requires that 1.5% of the Land and Water Conservation Fund be used for ensuring recreational public access to federal public lands that have significantly restricted access to fishing and hunting.

"Senator Hagan and I have been able to combine the best of the bills from our individual packages to support outdoor recreation and created a truly bipartisan package that will improve access to public lands for anglers, hunters, and recreational shooters across the nation," Sen. Murkowski said. "I'm hopeful that the Senate can follow suit and work together to pass a sportsmen's package this Congress, because these are some of the last remaining 'easy' issues that enjoy widespread support here on Capitol Hill."

The SHARE Act is expected to be voted on in the House of Representatives on February 5. CSF will continue to work with our bipartisan partners in the CSC to advance these sportsmen's priorities through Congress.

[From the Media Center, Feb. 4, 2014]

#### SENATE SPORTSMEN'S BILL UPHOLDS PUBLIC ACCESS, CONSERVATION

WASHINGTON—A bipartisan legislative package introduced today in the U.S. Senate would increase public access opportunities and advance conservation and is drawing widespread support from prominent sportsmen's groups, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership announced today.

The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act (S. 1996), introduced by Sens. Kay Hagan and Lisa Murkowski, attracted an impressive range of co-sponsors, including Sens. Mark Begich, John Boozman, Dean Heller, John Hoeven, Mary Landrieu, Joe Manchin, Rob Portman, Mark Pryor, Jon Tester and David Vitter.

"The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership supports the bipartisan sportsmen's package led by Senators Hagan and Murkowski," said TRCP President and CEO Whit Fosburgh. "Sportsmen rely on both the conservation of important habitat and, just as important, reasonable access to that habitat to enjoy productive days afield. This package includes bills that achieve both of those goals.

"Hunting and fishing directly contribute more than \$86 billion to the U.S. economy each year and support approximately 1.5 million non-exportable jobs," Fosburgh continued. "Sportsmen also are integral to the broader outdoor recreation and conservation economy, which is responsible for \$646 billion in direct consumer spending annually."

The Senate legislation includes the following:

Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage Opportunities Act (S. 170), requiring federal land managers to consider how management plans affect opportunities to engage in hunting, fishing and recreational shooting and requiring the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service to keep BLM lands open to these activities.

Making Public Lands Public, requiring that 1.5 percent of annual Land and Water Conservation Fund monies be made available to secure public access to existing federal lands that have restricted access to hunting, fishing and other recreational activities.

Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 (S. 738), authorizing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow any state to provide federal duck stamps electronically.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act Reauthorization (S. 741), reauthorizing through fiscal year 2017 NAWCA, which provides matching grants to organizations, state and local governments, and private landowners for the acquisition, restoration and enhancement of wetlands critical to the habitat of migratory birds.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Reauthorization (S. 51), reauthorizing NFWF, a nonprofit that preserves and restores native wildlife species and habitats.

Hunting, Fishing and Recreational Shooting Protection Act (S. 1505), exempting lead fishing tackle from being regulated under the Toxic Substances Control Act.

Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act (S. 1212), enabling states to allocate a greater proportion of federal funding to create and maintain shooting ranges.

Prominent sportsmen's groups commended the bill.

"Pope and Young Club, speaking on behalf of bowhunting, is excited to see the bipartisan support for the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014," said Mike Schlegel, conservation committee chairman of the Pope & Young Club. "This act contains titles that address key issues of concern within the conservation community nationwide."

"The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014 would expand hunter access and enable active habitat management, including conservation of some of the nation's most valuable federal lands," said Becky Humphries, executive vice president of conservation for the National Wild Turkey Federation. "The National Wild Turkey Federation strongly supports this pro-sportsmen legislative package."

"More than 140 million Americans participate in outdoor recreation activities, including hunting and fishing," said Ducks Unlimited CEO Dale Hall. "DU appreciates the bipartisan effort of this bill in bringing to light the economic impact and importance of sportsmen and -women to the United States. We are also grateful for its inclusion of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, which is an ideal model for successful private-public partnerships."

"Bipartisanship requires compromise," said Dr. Steve Williams, president of the Wildlife Management Institute and former director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "and this bipartisan bill encompasses many of sportsmen's priority issues. While not all of our needs are addressed, we commend our Senate leaders for introducing legislation that speaks to the values—responsive natural resources management, conservation and increased access opportunities among them—that are central to our outdoor traditions."

APRIL 8, 2014.

Re Promoting Legislation to Improve Hunting in America

Senator KAY HAGAN,  
*Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, Co-Chair,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Senator LISA MURKOWSKI,  
*Energy and Natural Resource Committee, Ranking Member,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATORS HAGAN AND MURKOWSKI, We write you to express our sincere gratitude for your leadership during the 113th Congress for hunting and conservation. Individually you introduced pro-hunting and conservation legislation. Collectively we are all recipients of the Diana Award. This award is bestowed on one female huntress annually for their achievement in big game

hunting, ethics in the field, and giving of their money, time and energies to enhance wildlife conservation and education.

We are now delighted to learn you are working together to introduce bipartisan pro-hunting and pro-conservation legislation. Your ongoing effort to introduce bipartisan legislation is a monumental step in breaking the deadlock that hunters have felt in previous legislative efforts.

Improving hunting opportunities across the U.S., being good role models for other female hunters, and improving funding for wildlife conservation has been a priority goal throughout our lives. We are proud to see your leadership as fellow female hunter-conservationists in the U.S. Senate. Furthermore as leaders of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus and of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, your colleagues are all looking to you for guidance on good public policy for hunting and conservation. We applaud your efforts and we are anxious to see you reach your legislative goals.

Our organization, Safari Club International, has an office in Washington, DC which we trust is working closely with your staffs to see your legislation become law. As fellow female hunters, thank you for your leadership and demonstrating that we all have a vested interest in our hunting heritage and wildlife conservation.

Sincerely,

Pamela S. Atwood, Diana Award Winner 1997; Jackie Bartels, Diana Award Winner 2007; Suzie Brewster, Diana Award Winner 2010; Deb Cunningham, Diana Award Winner 2002; Abigail Day, Diana Award Winner 2008; Olivia Nalos Oppe, Diana Award Winner 2014; Charlotte M. Peyer, Diana Award Winner 2011; Barbara Sackman, Diana Award Winner 1999; Sandra Sadler, Diana Award Winner 2005; Renee Snider, Diana Award Winner 2012; Ingrid-Poole Williams, Diana Award Winner 1998.

NATIONAL SHOOTING  
SPORTS FOUNDATION, INC.,

Newtown, CT, June 11, 2014.

Senator KAY HAGAN,  
*U.S. Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR HAGAN: The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) is the trade association for the firearms, ammunition, hunting, and recreational shooting sports industry. On behalf of our over 10,000 members, I would like to express our appreciation to you for your leadership and support in co-sponsoring the "Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014" (S.2363).

As you know, S. 2363 is simply the most important package of measures for the benefit of sportsmen in a generation. This package of pro-sportsmen legislation will promote, protect, and preserve our cherished outdoor activities of hunting and the shooting sports.

This vital piece of legislation will prevent anti-hunting groups from taking away the right of hunters to use the ammunition of their choice, provide state fish and game agencies with more flexibility to use Pittman-Robertson funds to build and maintain badly needed public shooting ranges so that tens of millions of recreational target shooters will have a place to safely enjoy their sport and hunters will have places to sight in their firearms for the hunting season. The bill will also help facilitate and provide for more access to public lands and waters for hunting, recreational fishing, and shooting. It will also prohibit additional fees for commercial filming on federal lands and waterways.

Companies in the United States that manufacture, distribute, and sell firearms, ammunition, and hunting equipment employ as

many of 112,000 people in the United States and are responsible for as much as \$37.7 billion in total economic activity in the country. In these difficult economic times the firearms, ammunition, and hunting industries are still one of the few domestic industries that has grown its profits while also contributing increased tax revenues. We as an industry appreciate your continued support of legislation to protect the hunting and shooting sports.

I want to thank you again for co-sponsoring this important legislation. Thank you for your service on behalf of America's hunting, shooting, and conservation community.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE G. KEANE.

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY,

Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR, On behalf of The Wilderness Society and our 500,000 members and supporters, I am writing to express our support for S. 1996, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014, sponsored by Senator Hagan. We believe that hunting and fishing are important uses of our public lands, and this legislation would advance several vital programs which would both safeguard sportsmen's access to world class hunting and angling opportunities while simultaneously supporting many programs that protect the high quality fish and wildlife habitat upon which sportsmen rely.

The Wilderness Society strongly supports several provisions of this legislation, specifically:

*Reauthorization of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA)*

This legislation would also renew FLTFA, an important tool allowing federal land management agencies to fund the acquisition of critical conservation areas—including wildlife refuges, national parks, national forests and more—though the sale of BLM lands with lower conservation values which have been identified for disposal. This common sense "land for land" approach not only provides increased public access for hunting and fishing, but also benefits local businesses, counties, economies, private land owners, and other outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

*Making Public Lands Public*

This provision would require the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to spend at least 1.5 percent of Land and Water Conservation Fund resources each year on parcels, easements or road maintenance projects which increase access to our public lands for hunters, anglers and other recreational users. We support this provision, and further, we support full and permanent authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund to ensure continued access to and protection of our public lands and waters.

*Reauthorization of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)*

NAWCA is a proven and popular conservation program with more than 25 years of success in partnering with state, local and non-profit organizations to leverage federal dollars in the restoration and protection of over 27 million acres of wetlands. The reauthorization of NAWCA is essential for the protection and restoration of wetland habitat, which supports an enormous variety of waterfowl, fish and other wildlife.

*Reauthorization of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)*

Since its inception, NFWF has leveraged \$576 million in federal funds into \$2 billion in on-the-ground conservation. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation works with public and private partners in all 50 states to protect species and habitats and promote local stewardship of natural places, from community parks to wildlife refuges. Reau-

thorization of NFWF will ensure continued substantial leveraging of federal dollars in the protection of species and habitats that sportsmen depend on.

*Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act*

This title gives the Secretary of the Interior authority to permanently authorize electronic duck stamps. For 80 years duck stamps have served a dual role, both as a license to hunt waterfowl and as one of the most effective and important programs to protect wetland and wildlife refuge habitat. For every dollar spent on federal duck stamps, 98 cents goes to acquiring or leasing wetland habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Permanently authorizing the electronic duck stamp will significantly increase both access to hunting licenses for sportsmen and protection of high quality habitat for waterfowl and other species.

Further, the legislation does not include any of the provisions included in H.R. 3590, the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act, that would undermine the integrity of America's National Wilderness Preservation system.

For these reasons, we urge you to support S. 1996, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act.

Sincerely,

ALAN ROWSOME,

Senior Director of Government Relations for Lands, The Wilderness Society.

JULY 9, 2014.

Hon. HARRY REID,

Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,

Minority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. KAY HAGAN,

U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. LISA MURKOWSKI,

U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER REID, MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, SENATOR HAGAN AND SENATOR MURKOWSKI: The sportsmen and women conservationists who we represent across the Nation deeply appreciate the strong bipartisan leadership that you have shown to bring the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014 (S. 2363) to the floor this week. S. 2363 includes valuable provisions to conserve fish and wildlife habitat and expand public access for hunters and anglers. We know that time on the floor of the Senate is extremely limited and precious, but we believe that this bill is worthy of expedited floor consideration.

It is a rare and splendid occurrence that such a large and diverse coalition of hunting, shooting, angling and other conservation organizations are so united behind a bill. Therefore, we urge you to maximize the value of such a rare opportunity for sportsmen by ensuring that floor consideration of this important legislation and amendments filed to it will be open, transparent and limited to issues that enhance our nation's rich sportsmen's heritage.

In particular, we urge you to oppose any amendments that would derail the proposal by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency to clarify and restore longstanding Clean Water Act protections for headwater streams and wetlands across the country. On June 3, 2014, we and 12 other sportsmen's conservation groups wrote to you and urged you to reject such legislation (attached). Such legislation would severely undermine, not enhance, sportsmen's interests.

Please take advantage of the great opportunity that you and the outstanding group of bipartisan cosponsors of S. 2363 have worked

so hard to achieve on behalf of sportsmen this week. Pass a strong sportsmen's bill.

Sincerely,

Collin O'Mara, President and CEO, National Wildlife Federation; Whit Fosburgh, President and CEO, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership; Scott Kovarovich, Executive Director, Izaak Walton League of America; Chris Wood, President and CEO, Trout Unlimited.

Mrs. HAGAN. I also want to share some excerpts from these letters and statements.

This one is from the National Shooting Sports Foundation. The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act "is simply the most important package of measures for the benefit of sportsmen in a generation. This package of pro-sportsmen legislation will promote, protect, and preserve our cherished outdoor activities of hunting and the shooting sports."

The CEOs of the National Wildlife Federation, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Izaak Walton League of America, and Trout Unlimited, in one letter, wrote: The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014 "includes valuable provisions to conserve fish and wildlife habitat and expand public access for hunters and anglers. We know that time on the floor of the Senate is extremely limited and precious, but we believe that this bill is worthy of expedited floor consideration. It is a rare and splendid occurrence that such a large and diverse coalition of hunting, shooting, angling and other conservation organizations are so united behind a bill."

Then a letter from Jeff Crane, who is president of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. Senator MURKOWSKI and I both have worked very closely with Jeff Crane, who is president of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. In his letter he said:

We thank Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus Co-Chair Senator Hagan and CSC member Senator Murkowski for introducing this bipartisan package of legislation that includes provisions vital to protecting our hunting and angling traditions in the U.S., which the CSC and organizations within the sportsmen's community have been working on for years.

From the Wilderness Society, in their letter:

On behalf of our 500,000 members and supporters, I am writing to express our support for the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014. We believe that hunting and fishing are important uses of our public lands, and this legislation would advance several vital programs which would both safeguard sportsmen's access to world class hunting and angling opportunities while simultaneously supporting many programs that protect the high quality fish and wildlife habitat upon which sportsmen rely.

That was from the Wilderness Society.

The women of Safari Club International wrote to Senator MURKOWSKI and me. This letter was dated in April.

We are delighted to learn you are working together to introduce bipartisan pro-hunting and pro-conservation legislation. Your ongoing effort to introduce bipartisan legislation is a monumental step in breaking the deadlock that hunters have felt in previous legislative efforts.

The CEO of Ducks Unlimited said:

More than 140 million Americans participate in outdoor recreation activities, including hunting and fishing. DU appreciates the bipartisan effort of this bill in bringing to light the economic impact and importance of sports men and women to the United States. We are also grateful for its inclusion of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, which is an ideal model for successful private-public partnerships.

I agree. We have an opportunity today to take action on a bill that advances critical priorities for a wide range of sportsmen and conservation groups across the country, bringing those two groups together.

I am proud of the package Senator MURKOWSKI and I crafted and put together. I also recognize that Members on both sides of the aisle have ideas on how to strengthen this bill.

It was always my hope we could take up, debate, and vote on sportsmen-related amendments to the bill, including amendments on some gun issues that are important to sports men and women in my State and across the country. I am disappointed we were not able to reach an agreement to do so.

However, we should not let partisan politics get in the way of passing a good bill that already has strong bipartisan support. It is fiscally responsible, and it is endorsed by more than 40 groups and stakeholders across the United States—6 of whom I have just made statements about from letters we have received.

So here is what I am going to ask all of my colleagues to do today: If you support this bill, vote for this bill. Outdoor recreation activities are a way of life in States across the country. Just as importantly, they are the lifeblood of many of our local communities. These activities actually contribute \$145 billion to our economy every year, and they support over 6 million jobs in this country. This is big business—and especially at a time when we are looking at jobs and the economic recovery.

So at a time when we are desperately trying to help the job market and get our economy back on track, I urge my colleagues to please put politics aside and vote to move forward with this balanced bipartisan bill that boosts our economy, protects our outdoor traditions, and preserves the special places in this country where we hunt, where we fish, where we enjoy the outdoors, and to do this for our future generations.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, S.2363. This legislation aims to support outdoor recreation by improving access for anglers, hunters, and recreational shooters. It would also advance conservation by reauthorizing programs that protect wildlife species and habitats, wetlands, migratory birds, and waterfowl.

Hunting, angling, outdoor recreation, and conservation are important economic contributors and support jobs in communities across the country, including many across the State of

Maine. The Federal Government is an important partner in preserving our natural treasures, enhancing recreation, promoting economic growth, and helping to protect the environment, which are all components in sustaining our Nation's outdoor heritage and traditions.

While I understand the concerns that have been raised about the need to strengthen the bill's conservation measures, on balance S.2363 would benefit hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation, and conservation. One provision would promote hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting on Federal public lands, preventing arbitrary closures. Another would help States construct and maintain public shooting ranges by allowing a larger proportion of Federal funding to be used for this purpose. Additionally, the bill would reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which leverage funding for critical wetlands, migratory birds, native fish and wildlife species, and habitat projects. A permanent authorization of electronic duck stamps, the proceeds of which go to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, is also included in the bill.

I am also pleased to be the sponsor of a bipartisan amendment that highlights the many important contributions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund over the last 50 years. In addition to calling for the reauthorization of this landmark conservation program, the amendment calls for full, permanent, and dedicated funding, making good on the promise that was made to the American people in 1964 to take the proceeds from natural resource development and invest a small portion in conservation and outdoor recreation. I am deeply concerned about the continued annual diversion of these funds from their original conservation intent to other purposes. We will not balance our Nation's books today by shortchanging our future.

Upholding Maine's strong tradition of outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing, and protecting access to the great outdoors for the enjoyment of all Americans continue to be priorities of mine. I also strongly support conservation programs and actions to preserve wildlife and natural habitats. The people of Maine have always been faithful stewards of our environment because we understand its tremendous value to our way of life. The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act would have a positive impact on hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation, and conservation, and I support its passage.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2363, which the clerk will report by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2363) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid (for Udall (CO)/Risch) amendment No. 3469, to clarify a provision relating to the nonfederal share of the cost of acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range.

Reid amendment No. 3490 (to amendment No. 3469), of a perfecting nature.

Reid motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with instructions, Reid amendment No. 3491, to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 3492 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 3491), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 3493 (to amendment No. 3492), of a perfecting nature.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Kay R. Hagan, Patrick J. Leahy, Tim Kaine, Angus S. King, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Bill Nelson, Jon Tester, Patty Murray, Claire McCaskill, Mark Begich, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Debbie Stabenow, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall, Joe Donnelly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that the debate on S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 41, nays 56, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 220 Leg.]

YEAS—41

Baldwin  
Begich

Bennet  
Brown

Cantwell  
Carper