

Hunters and anglers are the backbone of American wildlife conservation efforts, and they are heavily invested in the long-term health of wildlife. It is important that Congress come to their defense against ideologically driven, unscientific decisions that limit access to our Federal public lands.

Mr. Speaker, I have a letter here supporting H.R. 556. I want to read some of the names who signed onto this letter before I ask to include it in the RECORD.

These are organizations like the American Catfishing Association, American Sportfishing Association, Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, Boone and Crockett Club, California Waterfowl Association, Catch-A-Dream Foundation, Coastal Conservation Association, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports, Dallas Safari Club, Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, International Game Fish Association, Major League Fishing, Mule Deer Foundation, National Deer Association, National Professional Anglers Association, National Rifle Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Pheasants Forever, Public Lands Foundation, Quail Forever, Safari Club International, Sportsmen's Alliance, The Bass Federation, The Walleye Federation, Whitetails Unlimited, and Wildlife Forever.

□ 1450

These organizations represent millions of Americans who participate in outdoor recreation through hunting and fishing. I don't think they would be signing a letter encouraging the passage of H.R. 556 if they thought there was something that would endanger our fish and wildlife populations in this bill.

Again, to be clear, this bill doesn't prevent the Federal Government from making decisions regarding the use of lead ammunition and fishing tackle, but it does say that any ban must be backed up by site-specific science demonstrating that lead use is harming wildlife in that refuge.

It also requires that States be properly consulted when the Federal Government proposes to ban the use of lead. I believe that a true partnership between States and the Federal Government in wildlife conservation is the best path forward, and this bill is a step in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, I include this letter I just mentioned in the RECORD.

MARCH 16, 2026.

HON. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: The undersigned organizations, representing millions of hunters, anglers, wildlife professionals, and outdoor enthusiasts, write to express support for the Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act (H.R. 556). Introduced by Congressman Rob Wittman, this legislation would prohibit the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior from restricting the use of lead ammunition or tackle on certain federal lands and waters absent field data dem-

onstrating a science-based link to wildlife population declines. Overly broad or arbitrary bans on traditional ammunition and tackle can create unnecessary economic impacts and hinder fish and wildlife conservation efforts. We respectfully urge prompt House consideration of this legislation.

Fish and wildlife are generally managed at the population level, and—with limited exceptions—management authority primarily resides with state fish and wildlife agencies. In the rare cases where credible field data demonstrate impacts to wildlife populations, state agencies already have the authority to regulate ammunition or tackle use to achieve conservation objectives while minimizing impacts on hunters and anglers.

Wildlife management decisions should be guided by science and the expertise of professional wildlife managers—not political motivations, litigation, or ballot initiatives. Restrictions on traditional ammunition and tackle on federal lands should occur only with the support of the relevant state fish and wildlife agency. H.R. 556 appropriately reinforces this principle and affirms the central role of states in wildlife management.

Broad bans can also discourage participation in hunting and fishing, particularly when comparable alternatives are not widely available at similar cost or performance. Reduced participation has economic consequences and directly affects conservation funding. Through excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, and fishing tackle under the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts, hunters and anglers provide the primary source of funding for state wildlife conservation, habitat restoration, research, and public access.

At the same time, we support efforts by federal agencies to responsibly expand opportunities for hunting and fishing on public lands. We commend the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for proposing to expand hunting and sport fishing opportunities across units of the National Wildlife Refuge System and National Fish Hatchery System. Increasing access supports the Refuge System's mission to facilitate compatible wildlife-dependent recreation while strengthening participation in the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

For these reasons, we strongly support the Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act (H.R. 556) and encourage the House to advance this legislation. We also appreciate ongoing agency efforts to maintain and expand opportunities for America's hunters and anglers on public lands.

Thank you for your leadership and continued service on behalf of America's outdoor heritage.

Sincerely,

American Catfishing Association, American Sportfishing Association, Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, Boone and Crockett Club, California Waterfowl Association, Catch A Dream Foundation, Coastal Conservation Association, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports, Dallas Safari Club, Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, International Game Association, Major League Fishing.

Mule Deer Foundation, National Deer Association, National Professional Anglers Association, National Rifle Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Pheasants Forever, Public Lands Foundation, Quail Forever, Safari Club International, Sportsmen's Alliance, The Bass Federation, The Walleye Federation, Whitetails Unlimited, Wildlife Forever.

Mr. WESTERMAN. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I, again, thank Congressman WITTMAN for his leadership in working

on this legislation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1115, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mrs. Dingell of Michigan moves to recommit the bill H.R. 556 to the Committee on Natural Resources.

The material previously referred to by Mrs. DINGELL is as follows:

Mrs. Dingell moves to recommit the bill H.R. 556 to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Page 4, strike lines 5 through 9.

Page 4, after line 4, insert the following:

(1) based on the best available science, the use of lead in ammunition or tackle may contribute to the decline of a fish or wildlife population within that unit;

Page 4, line 21, strike "located." and insert "located; and".

Page 4, after line 21, insert the following:

(3) the prohibition or regulations, as applicable, will allow for hunting or fishing in areas that would otherwise be closed to hunting or fishing in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws.

Page 4, line 25, strike "paragraphs (1) and (2)" and insert "paragraphs (1) through (3)".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chair of the House Republican Conference:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 18, 2026.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, The Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to clause 5(b)(1) of Rule X, I am writing to inform you

that Rep. Kevin Kiley has resigned as a member of the House Republican Conference.
Sincerely,

LISA McCLAIN,
Chairwoman, House Republican Conference.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 18, 2026.

Hon. TIM WALBERG,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter is to advise you that Representative Kevin Kiley's election to the Committee on Education and Workforce has been automatically vacated pursuant to Clause 5(b) of Rule X effective today.

Best regards,

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
SPEAKER

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 18, 2026.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter is to advise you that Representative Kevin Kiley's election to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has been automatically vacated pursuant to Clause 5(b) of Rule X effective today.

Best regards,

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
SPEAKER

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 18, 2026.

Hon. JIM JORDAN,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter is to advise you that Representative Kevin Kiley's election to the Committee on the Judiciary has been automatically vacated pursuant to Clause 5(b) of Rule X effective today.

Best regards,

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1645

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LALOTA) at 4 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

The motion to recommit H.R. 556;
Passage of H.R. 556, if ordered;
Passage of H.R. 1958; and
The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.J. Res. 139.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROTECTING ACCESS FOR
HUNTERS AND ANGLERS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 556) to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from prohibiting the use of lead ammunition or tackle on certain Federal land or water under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes, offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL), on which the yeas and nays were ordered. The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 206, nays 209, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 92]

YEAS—206

Adams	Clark (MA)	Fields
Aguilar	Clarke (NY)	Figures
Amo	Cleaver	Fletcher
Ansari	Clyburn	Foster
Balint	Cohen	Foushee
Barragán	Conaway	Frankel, Lois
Beatty	Correa	Friedman
Bell	Costa	Frost
Bera	Courtney	Garamendi
Beyer	Craig	Garcia (CA)
Bishop	Crockett	Garcia (IL)
Bonamici	Crow	Garcia (TX)
Boyle (PA)	Cuellar	Gillen
Brown	Dauids (KS)	Golden (ME)
Brownley	Davis (IL)	Goldman (NY)
Budzinski	Davis (NC)	Gomez
Bynum	Dean (PA)	Gonzalez, V.
Carbajal	DeGette	Goodlander
Carson	DeLauro	Gottheimer
Carter (LA)	DelBene	Gray
Casar	Deluzio	Green, Al (TX)
Case	DeSaulnier	Grijalva
Casten	Dexter	Harder (CA)
Castor (FL)	Dingell	Hayes
Castro (TX)	Doggett	Himes
Cherfilus-	Elfreth	Houlahan
McCormick	Escobar	Hoyer
Chu	Españillat	Huffman
Cisneros	Evans (PA)	Ivey

Jackson (IL)	Moore (WI)	Sewell
Jacobs	Morelle	Sherman
Jayapal	Morrison	Simon
Jeffries	Moskowitz	Smith (WA)
Johnson (GA)	Mrvan	Sorensen
Johnson (TX)	Mullin	Soto
Kamlager-Dove	Nadler	Stansbury
Kaptur	Neal	Stanton
Keating	Neguse	Stevens
Kennedy (NY)	Norcross	Strickland
Khanna	Ocasio-Cortez	Subramanyam
Landsman	Olshewski	Suozi
Larsen (WA)	Omar	Sykes
Larson (CT)	Pallone	Takano
Latimer	Panetta	Thanedar
Lee (NV)	Pappas	Thompson (CA)
Lee (PA)	Pelosi	Thompson (MS)
Leger Fernandez	Perez	Titus
Levin	Peters	Tlaib
Liccardo	Pettersen	Tokuda
Lieu	Pingree	Tonko
Lofgren	Pocan	Torres (CA)
Lynch	Pou	Torres (NY)
Magaziner	Pressley	Trahan
Mannion	Quigley	Tran
Matsui	Ramirez	Underwood
McBath	Randall	Vargas
McBride	Raskin	Vasquez
McClain Delaney	Riley (NY)	Veasey
McClellan	Rivas	Velázquez
McCollum	Ross	Vindman
McDonald Rivet	Ruiz	Walkinshaw
McGarvey	Ryan	Wasserman
McGovern	Salinas	Schultz
McIver	Sánchez	Waters
Meeks	Scanlon	Watson Coleman
Menefee	Schakowsky	Whitesides
Menendez	Schneider	Williams (GA)
Meng	Scholten	Wilson (FL)
Mfume	Scott (VA)	
Min	Scott, David	

NAYS—209

Aderholt	Fischbach	LaLota
Alford	Fitzgerald	Langworthy
Allen	Fitzpatrick	Latta
Arrington	Fleischmann	Lawler
Babin	Flood	Lee (FL)
Bacon	Fong	Letlow
Baird	Fox	Loudermilk
Barr	Franklin, Scott	Lucas
Barrett	Fry	Luttrell
Baumgartner	Fulcher	Mackenzie
Bean (FL)	Garbarino	Malliotakis
Begich	Gill (TX)	Maloy
Bentz	Gimenez	Mann
Bergman	Goldman (TX)	Massie
Bice	Gonzales, Tony	Mast
Biggs (AZ)	Gooden	McCaul
Biggs (SC)	Gosar	McClain
Bilirakis	Graves	McClintock
Boebert	Griffith	McCormick
Bost	Grothman	McDowell
Brecheen	Guest	McGuire
Bresnahan	Guthrie	Messmer
Buchanan	Hageman	Meuser
Burchett	Hamadeh (AZ)	Miller (IL)
Burlison	Haridopolos	Miller (OH)
Calvert	Harrigan	Miller (WV)
Cammack	Harris (MD)	Miller-Meeks
Carter (GA)	Harris (NC)	Mills
Carter (TX)	Harshbarger	Moolenaar
Ciscomani	Hern (OK)	Moore (AL)
Cline	Higgins (LA)	Moore (CT)
Cloud	Hill (AR)	Moore (UT)
Clyde	Hinson	Moore (WV)
Cole	Houchin	Moran
Collins	Hudson	Murphy
Comer	Huizenga	Nehls
Crane	Hunt	Newhouse
Crank	Hurd (CO)	Norman
Crawford	Issa	Nunn (IA)
Crenshaw	Jack	Oberholte
Davidson	Jackson (TX)	Ogles
De La Cruz	James	Onder
DesJarlais	Johnson (LA)	Palmer
Donalds	Johnson (SD)	Patronis
Downing	Jordan	Perry
Dunn (FL)	Joyce (OH)	Pfleger
Edwards	Joyce (PA)	Reschenthaler
Ellzey	Kelly (MS)	Rogers (AL)
Emmer	Kelly (PA)	Rogers (KY)
Estes	Kennedy (UT)	Rose
Evans (CO)	Kiggans (VA)	Rouzer
Ezell	Kiley (CA)	Roy
Fallon	Kim	Rulli
Feenstra	Knott	Rutherford
Fine	Kustoff	Salazar
Finstad	LaHood	Scalise