May 7, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

The undersigned organizations from the recreational fishing, hunting, shooting, and wildlife conservation community ask that the Senate take up H.R. 4089, the Sportsmen’s Heritage Act of 2012. This legislation, which passed the House with a strong bipartisan vote on April 17th, is comprised of several priority sportsmen’s bills being championed by the bipartisan Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus. Additionally, in these fiscal times, none of the provisions of H.R. 4089 contain any authorization for funding. We understand that not all of the eight sportsmen’s priority bills are included within H.R. 4089; however, we recognize the importance of quickly moving a strong, pro-sportsmen’s package in the Senate.

H.R. 4089 is a significant first step in recognizing the importance of and facilitating the expansion and enhancement of hunting and recreational fishing and shooting. H.R. 4089 is basically a compilation of three stand-alone Senate bills (S. 2066, S. 1066, and S. 838), plus an additional provision, that promotes and advances our hunting and recreational fishing and shooting heritage. Specifically, and of particular interest to this community, this legislation:
• requires hunting and recreational shooting and fishing to be recognized activities on all Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands and incorporates much of the language and the intent of S. 2066;
• amends the Marine Mammal Protection Act to allow hunters who legally harvested polar bears in Canada prior to its listing under the Endangered Species Act to purchase permits in order to transport their trophies into the U.S. and incorporates much of the language and the intent of S. 1066;
• clarifies that the Environmental Protection Agency does not have the jurisdiction to regulate traditional ammunition with lead components and lead fishing tackle and incorporates the language and the intent of S.838 and;
• protects recreational shooting on National Monuments under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

The passage of H.R. 4089 is an important step in the advancement of America’s sporting heritage. We urge you to take up H.R. 4089 and quickly move a strong, pro-sportsmen’s package in the Senate. With your support, we can help overcome the obstacles facing sportsmen and women today and further the sportsmen’s tradition so that it can be handed down for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you to advance our hunting and recreational fishing and shooting heritage.

Sincerely,

American Sportfishing Association  National Trappers Association
Archery Trade Association  National Wild Turkey Federation
B.A.S.S. LLC  North American Bear Foundation
Boone and Crockett Club  North American Gamebird Association
Bowhunting Preservation Alliance  North American Grouse Partnership
California Outdoor Heritage Alliance  Pheasants Forever
Campfire Club of America  Pope & Young Club
Catch-A-Dream Foundation  Quail Forever
Center for Coastal Conservation  Quality Deer Management Association
Coastal Conservation Association  Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation  Ruffed Grouse Society
Conservation Force  Safari Club International
Dallas Safari Club  Shimano
Delta Waterfowl Foundation  Texas Wildlife Association
Ducks Unlimited  The Bass Federation
Houston Safari Club  Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Mule Deer Foundation  U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance
National Marine Manufacturers Association  Wild Sheep Foundation
National Rifle Association  Wildlife Management Institute
National Shooting Sports Foundation  Whitetails Unlimited