

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

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FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

Office of the Executive Director
CHRIS W. COX

March 10, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Boehner,

On behalf of the National Rifle Association, I am writing to express our support for the Altmire amendment to S. 22, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. The Altmire amendment would ensure that the provisions of S. 22 will not be used to close lands that are currently open to hunting, fishing, trapping, target shooting and other forms of traditional recreation. In addition, the amendment clarifies that the states retain the authority to manage resident fish and wildlife.

Encroaching development and the increasing population demand for open space has resulted the closure of federal lands that were once open to traditional forms of recreation, such as hunting and target shooting. Whether it is the closure of a trail that served as the access point for a generations-old hunting camp or the closure of large areas to target shooting, the sportsman's way of life has been under attack. There are those who would exacerbate this situation by attempting to use land designations to further close federal lands to sportsmen. This is why the Altmire amendment is necessary.

The Altmire amendment has already been applied to the National Landscape Conservation System Act within S. 22. It is critical to extend this protection for sportsmen to other areas of the bill, specifically Titles V and VIII pertaining to Rivers and Trails and National Heritage Areas, respectively. This is precisely what the Altmire amendment would do.

While the NRA takes no position on S. 22 as a whole, the meaningful protections provided by the Altmire amendment are critical to preserve access for sportsmen and the authority of the states to manage resident wildlife populations. For these reasons, we support its inclusion in S. 22.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (202) 651-2560

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris W. Cox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" being the most prominent part.

Chris W. Cox
Executive Director
NRA-ILA

cc: The Honorable Jason Altmire