

PROHIBITING FEDERAL AGENCIES FROM REGULATING TOXIC LEAD AMMUNITION AND TACKLE ON FEDERAL LANDS

Passed 214-201

SUMMARY:

The House passed a bill that would prohibit the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture from regulating the use of lead ammunition or tackle on certain federal lands or waters under their jurisdiction. (*April 30, 2024, Roll Call No. 167*)

BACKGROUND:

Our federal lands and the resources occurring on them are managed and protected based on an established framework of law and the best available science. These laws include the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the National Forest Management Act, the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, and the Endangered Species Act. Such management includes the ability to regulate pollution – including lead pollution – that poses a risk to wildlife on these lands that belong to the American people.

Rep. Robert Wittman (R-Va.) introduced the Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act of 2023, H.R. 615. H.R. 615 would prohibit the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture from regulating the use of lead ammunition or tackle on federal lands or waters made available for hunting or fishing. This bill would bar the agencies from being able to protect and manage the lands and wildlife under their jurisdiction by effectively preventing the replacement of lead ammunition and tackle with commonly used non-lead alternatives. This prohibition would constrain science-based management of our national wildlife refuges, national forests, and other public lands. It conflicts with conservation statutes such as the Endangered Species Act, potentially blocking federal agencies from ensuring that their activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species. Ingestion of lead threatens numerous wildlife species including mountain lions, black bears, bald and golden eagles, common loons, and endangered California condors and whooping cranes.

OUTCOME:

On April 30, 2024, the House passed H.R. 615, 214-201. “No” was the pro-conservation vote.