



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

February 4, 2014

United States House
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Oppose H.R. 3590, H.R. 3964, and H.R. 2954 - A collective assault on wildlife and wildlands

Dear Representative:

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to turn environmental values into national priorities. Each year, LCV publishes the *National Environmental Scorecard*, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The *Scorecard* is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

LCV urges you to vote NO on H.R. 3590, H.R. 3964, and H.R. 2954. These three damaging pieces of legislation roll back environmental laws, weaken federal agencies, and put wilderness areas, wildlife and communities at risk.

H.R. 3590, the so-called Sportsmen Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act, contains several harmful measures that attack the National Environmental Policy Act, the Wilderness Act, and the Environmental Protection Agency. The bill includes language that could allow the use of motorized vehicles, road construction, and other forms of development within the 110 million acres of protected wilderness areas, and it blocks input from public stakeholders in national wildlife refuge management decisions. This legislation also includes sections that would further curtail the EPA's ability to regulate toxic lead in ammunition and would add new exemptions for chemicals used in fishing equipment. Additionally this bill would undermine the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act by allowing the importation of polar bear trophies from Canada, which encourages hunters to kill protected species in other countries and then seek legal waivers from Congress after the fact.

H.R. 3964, the so-called Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act, is a radical bill that would eliminate state and federal environmental protections of California's rivers, threaten water quality in California's Bay-Delta estuary, and undermine the reliability of the state's water supplies. This bill derails implementation of a bipartisan package of water policy reform bills adopted in 2009 and would eliminate desperately-needed protections for salmon and native fisheries, putting at risk thousands of fishing jobs. This legislation is an extreme giveaway to large agribusinesses and cynically uses California's current low water supplies as an excuse to weaken federal and state environmental laws, when the real cause of the lack of water is the historic drought afflicting the state.

H.R. 2954 is a package of destructive public lands bills, including provisions that would undermine conservation protections at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, obstruct reviews of grazing leases which are critical in protecting imperiled species such as the greater sage-grouse, and promote

1920 L Street NW, Suite 800 • Washington, DC 20036 • 202-785-8683 • Fax: 202-835-0491
lcv@lcv.org • www.lcv.org



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harmful logging. This legislation would greatly hinder the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service in their implementation of conservation strategies that protect threatened species, and would forbid public protests of grazing decisions. The bill also requires counterproductive salvage logging on over 150,000 acres of the Stanislaus National Forest impacted by the California Rim Fire while casting aside federal law and impeding the public's ability to seek administrative and judicial review.

We urge you to REJECT H.R. 3590, H.R. 3964, and H.R. 2954, a collective assault on wildlife and wildlands. We will strongly consider including votes on these bills in the 2014 Scorecard. If you need more information, please call Tiernan Sittenfeld, Sara Chieffo or Alex Taurel in my office at (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski
President