

Chairwoman Mary Landrieu  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0203

Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0203

July 30, 2014

Dear Chairwoman Landrieu and Ranking Member Murkowski:

As sportsmen conservation organizations representing millions of hunters, anglers, and wildlife enthusiasts, we ask that you support S.1554: The Hunt Unrestricted on National Treasures (HUNT) Act. Introduced by Senator Martin Heinrich, this bill would improve sportsmen's access to millions of acres of virtually inaccessible public lands.

The concept that this legislation embodies, *Making Public Lands Public (MPLP)*, has been a priority for the sportsmen's conservation community for over 5 years and worked on through the Hunting and Shooting Sports Roundtable (HSSR). The HSSR is made up of representatives from organizations and federal land management agencies who signed the Federal Lands Hunting, Fishing and Shooting Sports Roundtable Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and who are interested in promoting recreational hunting and shooting on federal lands. Over the years, the *MPLP* concept has been introduced in stand-alone legislation, included as part of a greater sportsmen's package of bills (S. 2363), and funding for access has been included in USFS and BLM annual budgets.

America's 47 million hunters and anglers represent a vital part of our nation's heritage and economy, accounting for more than \$200 billion in economic activity and supporting 1.5 million jobs across the country. But this key demographic is being threatened by a lack of access, an issue that becomes more imposing with each passing year.

As it currently stands, millions of acres of public lands are inaccessible to the American public. These acres are often surrounded by private ownership that makes public use nearly impossible. The HUNT Act, and the *MPLP* concept, would not only identify and publish landlocked parcels greater than 640 acres, but would designate 1.5 percent of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) toward acquiring easements, rights of way, or land acquisitions from willing sellers. This funding mechanism provides a strong funding base while ensuring no increases in Federal expenditures.

Dwindling access to public lands remains the greatest threat to American sportsmen. The HUNT Act is a necessary and sensible step toward providing America's hunters and anglers needed access to landlocked public lands, ensuring the continued health, growth, and sustainability of the sportsmen's community. This bill should be seen as a small investment that is assured to generate huge returns for years to come.

Sincerely,  
Archery Trade Association  
Bear Trust International  
Boone and Crockett Club  
Bowhunting Preservation Alliance  
Catch-A-Dream Foundation  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
Conservation Force

Dallas Safari Club  
Delta Waterfowl  
Ducks Unlimited  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Masters of Foxhounds Association  
Mule Deer Foundation  
National Shooting Sports Foundation  
National Trappers Association  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
North American Bear Foundation  
North American Grouse Partnership  
Pheasants Forever  
Public Lands Foundation  
Quail Forever  
Quality Deer Management Association  
Ruffed Grouse Society  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Tread Lightly!  
Whitetails Unlimited  
Wildlife Forever  
Wildlife Management Institute  
Wildlife Mississippi