

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