

Archery Trade Association \* Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies \* Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation \* Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports \* Dallas Safari Club \* Delta Waterfowl Foundation \* Ducks Unlimited \* Houston Safari Club \* Masters of Foxhounds Association \* Mule Deer Foundation \* National Rifle Association \* National Shooting Sports Foundation \* National Trappers Association \* National Wild Turkey Federation \* Orion the Hunter's Institute \* Pheasants Forever \* Professional Outfitters and Guides \* Quail Forever \* Quality Deer Management Association \* Ruffed Grouse Society \* Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation \* Safari Club International \* Sportsmen's Alliance \* Whitetails Unlimited \* Wild Sheep Foundation \* Wildlife Forever \* Wildlife Management Institute

February 6, 2017

Honorable Paul Ryan, Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H 232 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-107 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader McCarthy,

We write representing organizations that collectively include millions of wildlife conservationists, hunter conservationists, wildlife enthusiasts, and wildlife scientists, in strong support of HJ Res. 49 from Cong. Young (AK), which would nullify the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) final rule "Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska" (81 Fed Reg 52248 (August 5, 2016)). Our community exhausted all Executive Branch appeals and remedies urging the FWS to slow down the Proposed Rule, and revise it to reflect a proposal mutually agreed to by the State of Alaska and the FWS; all to no end. It is time for Congress to nullify this final rule.

This final rule boldly preempts the authority of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to manage wildlife for both recreational and subsistence hunting on NWRs, which authority of the state is affirmed by Congress in the Alaska Statehood Act, the Alaska National Interests Land Conservation Act, and the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act. The FWS final rule was premised on meeting as a priority the FWS policy on Biological Integrity, Diversity and Environmental Health; which would inadvisably set a precedent nationally. Many members of our organizations enjoy Alaska's bounty of fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for unrivaled hunting, fishing and outdoor experiences. The sustainable management of these natural resources needs to be led by the State working in cooperation with the FWS. We urge that you favorably consider HJ Res. 49 which will restore the jurisdictional state-federal relationship as Congress has previously directed.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our concerns about this harmful and illegal rule which if left un-remedied, significantly affects the use and appreciation of the magnificent natural resources found in Alaska.

Sincerely,

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