



March 7, 2022

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Federal Register Document No. 2022-03498 Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council
Charter Renewal

Secretary Vilsack and Secretary Haaland,

The Izaak Walton League of America (League), representing our more than 42,000 members nationwide, thanks you for the renewal of the Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council (HWCC) Federal Advisory Committee. The League's membership is comprised of hunters, anglers, and recreational shooters united to "conserve, restore and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural resources, including soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife." Founded one hundred years ago, the League continues to advocate for clean air and water, abundant wildlife, and sustainable outdoor recreation. We have enjoyed our productive partnership with the Biden-Harris administration and look forward to continuing to work toward achieving our shared goals of conserving habitat, enhancing public access to outdoor recreation, and protecting biodiversity.

The HWCC has been a vital partnership for the conservation community for nearly two decades. By renewing this important committee, the Biden-Harris administration is recognizing the importance of collaboration with organizations representing conservationists, sportsmen and women, and recreational shooters, and continuing a legacy of partnership shared by every administration since the presidency of George W. Bush. The members of the HRCC have

worked with the Bush, Obama, and Trump administrations on a non-partisan basis to tackle critical issues like wildlife disease, maintaining access to federal public lands for hunting and recreational shooting, and National Forest management.

The League recognizes that hunters and anglers have always been the backbone of wildlife and habitat conservation in the United States. When the League was founded in 1922, our fifty-four founders, sportsmen all, declared “time to call a halt” to the wanton destruction of habitat they were witnessing so that future generations of League members might enjoy the outdoors as much as they had. The League was an early influence on the creation of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation that has become the envy of the world for its success in conserving fish and wildlife habitat with sound management backed by science.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the North American Model relies on a structure where hunters and anglers provide the primary share of funding for the conservation and management of the nation’s fish and wildlife resources. What is not as well known is that Congressman Absalom Willis Robertson, for whom the famed Pittman-Robertson Act that established this user pays system is named, was an early member of the League and influenced by the leadership of the young organization. More than \$13 billion has been collected from sportsmen and women and used to fund some of the world’s greatest conservation achievements because of the foresight of an early leader of the Izaak Walton League of America.

Across the League’s approximately two hundred chapters, more than half have facilities dedicated to recreational shooting. Every day, League members across the country are collaborating with community youth groups, scouting troops, veterans, and many others to grow the recreational shooting community. Our members understand the importance of providing safe opportunities to gain experience and practice shooting sports, mentoring new shooters so that they recognize the role they are playing in conservation through the North American Model.

The HWCC is a vital conduit for communication and expertise between the Biden-Harris administration and the League and other members of the sporting conservation community. We are extremely grateful that the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior have renewed the HWCC to work towards conservation of our precious fish and wildlife resources more effectively. The League thanks you both for your commitment to America’s hunting, shooting, and conservation legacy. Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jared Mott". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jared Mott
Conservation Director
Izaak Walton League of America