March 4, 2019

The Honorable Ron Kind  
1502 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Kind,

Thank you for introducing the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act (TPMTSA), H.R. 1222. While this legislation has enjoyed broad support in prior sessions of Congress, including leaders of the Congressional Sportsmen Caucus, Outdoor Recreation Caucus, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Western Governors Association, and the Outdoor Industry Association, we are optimistic that your leadership will enhance its prospects of passage during the 116th Congress.

TPMTSA would provide state wildlife agencies the flexibility to utilize Pittman-Robertson funding to enhance, expand, and develop recreational shooting range infrastructure. The shovel-ready projects supported by the bill would benefit local communities and outdoor recreation enthusiasts across the country.

Most notably, public shooting ranges would generate new conservation funding through the Pittman-Robertson Act. As you know, the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Conservation Trust fund is responsible for more than $11 billion in direct wildlife conservation and management initiatives since 1937. As new users enter the shooting sports, this successful conservation formula can be sustained and expanded for generations to come.

Public participation at many public shooting ranges is rising. During 2016 – the last year for which data is available – more than half of shooting ranges reported year-over-year increases, with a majority of these ranges reporting more than 20% growth. This overcrowding tracks with overall shooting sports participation: between 2009 and 2016, more than 15 million participants were added to the shooting sports. Congress must take steps to add range capacity to keep pace with the growing participation trends.

Finally, local shooting ranges are one of the largest providers of hunter safety and firearm education programs. These programs directly benefit those who hunt and engage in the shooting sports. Expanded ranges can also boost public safety for public land users. More ranges can help to minimize conflicts and accidents on public lands.
Thank you for your prompt consideration of this important topic. As the world leader in commercial, military, and law enforcement ammunition and hunting accessories, Vista Outdoor is an active participant in the public policy process and supports Congressional efforts to expand outdoor recreation, promote public safety, and ensure long-term growth of the shooting sports.

Please feel free to contact our Washington, D.C. office with more questions at fred.ferguson@vistaoutdoor.com.

Sincerely,

Ryan Bronson
Director, Conservation and Outreach
Vista Outdoor