

Union Calendar No. 164

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 615

[Report No. 118–203, Part I]

To prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from prohibiting the use of lead ammunition or tackle on certain Federal land or water under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN (for himself, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GUEST, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. BOST, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. FINSTAD, and Ms. STEFANIK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Additional sponsors: Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. OWENS, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. CARL, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, and Mr. FITZGERALD

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italics]

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Committee on Agriculture discharged; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on January 27, 2023]

A BILL

To prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from prohibiting the use of lead ammunition or tackle on certain Federal land or water under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Access for*
5 *Hunters and Anglers Act of 2023”.*

6 **SEC. 2. PROTECTING ACCESS FOR HUNTERS AND ANGLERS**
7 **ON FEDERAL LAND AND WATER.**

8 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in section 20.21*
9 *or 20.108 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (as in*
10 *effect on the date of enactment of this Act), and subsection*
11 *(b), the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Direc-*
12 *tor of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or the*
13 *Director of the Bureau of Land Management, and the Sec-*
14 *retary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest*
15 *Service (referred to in this section as the “applicable Sec-*
16 *retary”), may not—*

17 *(1) prohibit the use of lead ammunition or tackle*
18 *on Federal land or water that is—*

19 *(A) under the jurisdiction of the applicable*
20 *Secretary; and*

21 *(B) made available for hunting or fishing*
22 *activities; or*

23 *(2) issue regulations relating to the level of lead*
24 *in ammunition or tackle to be used on Federal land*
25 *or water described in paragraph (1).*

1 (b) *EXCEPTION.*—Subsection (a) shall not apply to a
2 prohibition or regulations described in that subsection that
3 are limited to a specific unit of Federal land or water, if
4 the applicable Secretary determines that—

5 (1) a decline in wildlife population at the spe-
6 cific unit of Federal land or water is primarily
7 caused by the use of lead in ammunition or tackle,
8 based on the field data from the specific unit of Fed-
9 eral land or water; and

10 (2) the prohibition or regulations, as applicable,
11 are—

12 (A) consistent with the law of the State in
13 which the specific Federal land or water is lo-
14 cated;

15 (B) consistent with an applicable policy of
16 the fish and wildlife department of the State in
17 which the specific Federal land or water is lo-
18 cated; or

19 (C) approved by the applicable fish and
20 wildlife department of the State in which the
21 specific Federal land or water is located.

22 (c) *FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.*—The applicable Sec-
23 retary shall include in a Federal Register notice with re-
24 spect to any prohibition or regulations that meet the re-
25 quirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) an

- 1 *explanation of how the prohibition or regulations, as appli-*
- 2 *cable, meet those requirements.*

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