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The Arizona Wildlife Federation Denounces the RETURN Act

The recent introduction of the RETURN Act has enraged sportsmen and women who proudly contribute to wildlife conservation in Arizona through an excise tax on their purchases of guns, ammunition, and hunting equipment.

The RETURN Act would repeal the Pittman-Robertson Act which has been universally celebrated for its outstanding contributions to conservation by the sporting community, conservation organizations, and the outdoor recreation and firearms industry. Last year alone, the program provided \$1.5 billion in funding to state wildlife agencies for game management, hunter education, and shooting range safety programs.

For over 85 years, Pittman-Robertson has stood strong as a universally upheld, non-controversial, and common-sense policy that supports the shared and nonpartisan values of wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation.

“Most hunters recognize that without conservation there’s no hunting and they are proud to support conservation through gun and ammunition purchases”, said Colin Shepard, Area Chairmen of Scottsdale Ducks Unlimited.

Unfortunately, the RETURN Act, introduced by Rep Andrew Clyde (GA-R) and supported by Arizona Representatives: Paul Gosar, Andy Biggs, and Debby Lesko, is aimed at dismantling this almost century long wildlife funding success story.

“I suspect the legislators that are supporting the RETURN Act might not recognize the long-standing history and the unintended consequences for the state game and fish departments and those who enjoy our outdoor

resources”, said Steve Clark, Executive Director of the Arizona Elk Society. “I hope they get educated before they vote.”

The Arizona Wildlife Federation stands with sporting and conservation organizations across the country, and with the National Wildlife Federation, in calling for members of congress to reject the RETURN Act.

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