

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 20, 2008

Dear Colleague:

We recently introduced bipartisan legislation that changes the excise tax payment schedule for firearm and ammunition manufacturers from a bi-weekly to a quarterly schedule.

As you may know, the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Fund authorizes the development of wildlife restoration projects across the country. Under current law, firearm and ammunition manufacturers pay excise taxes into the fund on a bi-weekly basis. All other manufacturers pay on a quarterly basis.

The frequency of tax payments for the firearm and ammunition manufacturers represents a burden on the industry. In fact, some manufacturers are forced to secure short-term loans to pay their taxes, thus incurring additional expenses and adding to administrative overhead. The end result is that money is diverted away from core business areas to finance tax payments.

Switching to a quarterly excise tax payment system would allow manufacturers to reinvest funds into researching and developing new products, purchasing new manufacturing machinery, and increasing marketing and outreach to the hunting and sport shooting community. Selling more products also would increase federal excise tax (FET) revenue and, ultimately, the flow of dollars into the Pittman Robertson Trust Fund. For example, a similar tax scheduling change in 2004 for the archery industry resulted in an increase in revenue to the Wildlife Restoration Fund of nearly **\$15 million—an increase of more than 50 percent from the archery industry**. A similar increase could be expected after this change is made for the firearms and ammunition manufacturers.

This is a rare win-win situation for all those involved. The entire firearms industry including the National Rifle Association supports this legislation, as do all major conservation groups, including the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, North American Wetlands Conservation Council, and Pheasants Forever. The bill is also fully supported by the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

We hope you join us in cosponsoring H.R. 6310, a simple fix to the tax code that will not only help the firearms industry, but consumers and the conservation community as well. If you would like more information on this legislation, please contact Erik Olson in Rep. Kind's office at 5-5506 or Rob Cooper in Rep. Ryan's office at 5-3031.

Sincerely,



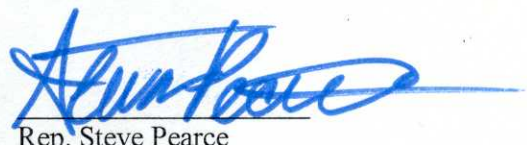
Rep. Ron Kind



Rep. Paul Ryan



Rep. Dan Boren



Rep. Steve Pearce