

March 6th, 2023

Washington House of Representatives
416 Sid Snyder Ave, SW
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: House Bill 1240- OPPOSE

To the Honorable Members of the Washington House of Representatives,

The below signed conservation organizations would like to urge your opposition to House Bill 1240 (HB 1240)- legislation that would make it a crime to manufacture, import, distribute or sell modern sporting rifles and semi-automatic firearms. HB 1240 poses to not only severely impact Washington's recreational shooting community, but also significantly reduce much-needed conservation funding for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Modern sporting rifles and semiautomatic firearms are commonly found in the hands of hunters and recreational shooters across Washington who value them for their durability and reliability. Modern sporting rifles are now one of the most popular types of firearms in America and are used for a wide variety of lawful purposes, including hunting, varmint control, shooting sports, and personal defense.

In addition to restricting access to these firearms for hunting and recreational shooting, a ban on modern sporting rifles and semi-automatic firearms would also impact conservation funding in the state. Washington's law-abiding hunters and shooters have long played a vital role in funding conservation and wildlife management efforts. Under the American System of Conservation Funding (ASCF), a unique "user pays- public benefits" structure, Washington's sportsmen and women generate tens of millions of dollars each year for the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. These funds are generated through license sales, and also a 10-11% federal excise tax on firearm purchases under the Pittman-Robertson Act. Last year alone, over \$21 million dollars was generated through Pittman-Robertson for Washington state, providing vital funding revenue to the state's conservation, habitat restoration, and wildlife management efforts. Unfortunately, HB 1240, if passed, would threaten this very funding that supports the state's delicate habitats and wildlife populations—something to which all Washingtonians should care about.

In recognition of the far-reaching negative impact HB 1240 would have on Washington's recreational shooting community and on wildlife conservation throughout the state, we urge a "No" vote on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Joe Kondelis
American Bear Foundation

Keely Hopkins
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Charles Whitwam
HOWL for Wildlife

Marie Neumiller
Inland Northwest Wildlife Council

Alex Baier
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Torin Miller
National Deer Association

Dale Magart
Northeast Washington Wildlife Group

Chris Tymeson
Safari Club International