

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Institute for Legislative Action

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FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

February 1, 2022

Representative Mike Frieberg
House Preventive Health Policy Division Committee
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairman Frieberg,

I am writing to you regarding HF 2556; an act to ban hunting with ammunition that contains lead. On behalf of the National Rifle Association, I would like to express our strong opposition to this piece of legislation.

HF 2556 prohibits the use of lead ammunition when hunting. The use of lead ammunition is under attack by anti-hunting and anti-gun extremists who ignore science and misinform policymakers and the public on the effects of extremely small amounts of lead. In truth, these extremists want lead ammunition banned because it discourages participation in hunting and shooting.

Traditional ammunition is significantly cheaper than its alternatives and easier to find. Banning lead ammunition will make the supply chain problem of any type of ammunition much worse. Further, the alternatives to lead ammunition can be less lethal (and therefore less ethical for hunting) and generally are not better for the environment.

In the United States, wildlife biologists do not manage wildlife based on single mortality incidents or emotions, but instead on science and population data. Our country's wildlife management practices are based on the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which is widely recognized as the best in the world. For more than a century, wildlife has been successfully managed through this model and has led to the restoration of multiple species. Lastly, a decrease in the purchase of traditional ammunition would adversely affect conservation funding. Hunters are the largest supporters of conservation through excise taxes levied on ammunition, firearms, and hunting equipment by the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937, which generated more than \$17 million in funding for Minnesota wildlife conservation in 2020 alone.

Finally, the fines imposed by HF 2556 are excessive and punitive. The cost of the "buy-back" program is also likely to be enormous and costly to the general fund.

On behalf of NRA's thousands of members in Minnesota, we respectfully request that you oppose this legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Brian Gosch
Minnesota State Director