



**BACKCOUNTRY  
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**

PO BOX 9257  
MISSOULA, MT 59807  
406-926-1908

September 15, 2023

The Honorable Virginia Foxx  
Chairwoman  
House Education and Workforce Committee  
2462 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott  
Ranking Member  
House Education and Workforce Committee  
2328 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Foxx and Ranking Member Scott:

On behalf of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA), the voice for our wild public lands, waters and wildlife, I write to express our support for the Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act (H.R. 5110) passed by the House Education and Workforce Committee. This important legislation would address problematic legal interpretations of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which became law last year.

Given the Department of Education's interpretation of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act some public schools have withheld funding for hunter education and shooting sports programs. This interpretation of the law is detrimental to millions of American youths, creating obstacles to educating future generations of hunters and anglers and instilling responsible safety practices central to the enjoyment of our outdoor traditions. It is critical that we restore funding for these unique educational opportunities and programs that benefit the next generation of hunters and anglers.

In addition to our support for H.R. 5110 we strongly support the amendment in the nature of a substitute with the following language that would decisively resolve the interpretation of the law.

*“, except that this paragraph shall not apply to the use of funds under this Act for activities carried out under programs authorized by this Act that are otherwise permissible under such programs and that provide students with educational instruction or educational enrichment activities, such as archery, hunting, other shooting sports, or culinary arts” before the period at the end.*

BHA thanks the House Education and Workforce Committee for advancing this necessary legislation. Further, we urge Congress to advance corrective language as swiftly as possible through H.R. 5110 as well as through the appropriations process. We must address any barriers - no matter the scale - that prove detrimental to future generations of safe and responsible hunters and anglers. We look forward to working closely with you to advance our shared priorities.

Sincerely,



**BACKCOUNTRY  
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**

PO BOX 9257  
MISSOULA, MT 59807  
406-926-1908

*John W. Gale*

John Gale  
Vice President – Policy and Government Relations  
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

