

American Sportfishing Association \* American Woodcock Society \* Archery Trade Association \* Backcountry Hunters & Anglers \* Boone and Crockett Club \* Camp Fire Club of America \* Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation \* Delta Waterfowl \* Houston Safari Club \* International Hunter Education Association \* Masters of Foxhounds \* Mule Deer Foundation \* National Association of Forest Service Retirees \* National Deer Association \* National Shooting Sports Foundation \* National Wild Turkey Federation \* North American Grouse Partnership \* Pheasants Forever \* Public Lands Foundation \* Quail Forever \* Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation \* Ruffed Grouse Society \* Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership \* Whitetails Unlimited \* Wildlife Management Institute \* Wildlife Forever \*

June 12, 2023

Representative Bruce Westerman  
Chair  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Raúl Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act (H.R. 1450)

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Grijalva:

We write to express our support for the Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act, HR1450. The undersigned conservation organizations, representing millions of hunters, natural resource management professionals, and other outdoor recreationalists, thank the sponsors for their bipartisan leadership in crafting the legislation which will provide land managers with expanded tools and the resources to address unhealthy, overstocked forests.

Our federal forests are in poor ecological condition due to a lack of active management, climate change, a century of fire suppression, and decades of controversy about how to best manage forests. While policymakers have fought over federal forest management, forest health has suffered. The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) program, by contrast, has allowed the Forest Service to partner with state agencies on federal forest restoration and management projects, facilitating critical work to improve species habitat, enhance watersheds, reduce hazardous fuels, and mitigate wildfire risks.

Since GNA was first authorized by Congress with the 2014 Farm Bill, at least 38 states have broken ground on over 380 GNA projects. Through these GNA projects, states are contributing to the restoration of federal forests on an unprecedented scale. Through HR1450, Tribes and Counties will have the same authority as states to retain GNA project revenues to reinvest in conservation, providing a significant incentive to engage and partner on critical management. The bill also clarifies the ability to carry out restoration services on adjacent state, tribal, county, and other land that is essential to the health and productivity of National Forests.

GNA has worked well, and we urge swift advancement of this bill to further improve the effectiveness of this program.

Sincerely,

American Sportfishing Association  
American Woodcock Society  
Archery Trade Association  
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Boone and Crockett Club  
Camp Fire Club of America  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
Delta Waterfowl  
Houston Safari Club  
International Hunter Education Association  
Masters of Foxhounds  
Mule Deer Foundation  
National Association of Forest Service Retirees  
National Deer Association  
National Shooting Sports Foundation  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
North American Grouse Partnership  
Pheasants Forever  
Public Lands Foundation  
Quail Forever  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Ruffed Grouse Society  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Whitetails Unlimited  
Wildlife Management Institute  
Wildlife Mississippi