

October 24, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chair  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
Committee  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin  
Ranking Member  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
Committee  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Chairman  
House Natural Resources Committee  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Ranking Member  
House Natural Resources Committee  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Hunters and anglers support the Public Lands Renewable Energy  
Development Act (H.R. 3794 / S. 2666).**

On behalf of the undersigned hunting, angling, landowner, and conservation organizations we write in support of the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act (PLREDA). We are pleased that S. 2666 was recently introduced in the Senate with bipartisan sponsorship and that H.R. 3794 received broad, bipartisan support at the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals hearing on July 25<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate your interest in this important piece of legislation and seek your assistance to expeditiously advance this bill through your respective committees to ensure that PLREDA becomes law in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Our organizations represent hundreds of thousands of members who value the conservation of fish and wildlife habitat on public lands and often hunt, fish, and recreate on those lands. We understand the important role that public lands can and do play in supporting energy development. However, energy development must be done in a way that thoughtfully balances development with fish and wildlife habitat. PLREDA strikes this important balance between the development of new clean energy infrastructure and the conservation of our natural resources.

By identifying priority areas for wind, solar and geothermal development, PLREDA encourages smart siting and efficient permitting of projects in places with high potential for energy and low potential for conflicts with fish and wildlife habitat. Planning ahead for development in priority areas not only avoids impacts to fish and wildlife, but also offers developers certainty for their project timelines and saves both time and money.

Importantly, PLREDA also ensures communities benefit from renewable energy development by distributing a portion of the revenues generated to states and counties, and that a portion of revenues is dedicated to improving access to public land and for the conservation and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat. In addition, the revenue sharing model laid out in the legislation will help permitting agencies advance renewable energy by

securing the necessary resources to efficiently manage, review and advance applications for new projects.

We believe this bill is an important step in advancing renewable energy while strengthening communities and conservation efforts benefitting hunters, anglers and outdoor recreation. We look forward to working with you to ensure its passage in the 116th Congress.

Sincerely,

- American Fly Fishing Trade Association
- American Sportfishing Association
- American Woodcock Society
- Angler Action Foundation
- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.)
- California Waterfowl Association
- Delta Waterfowl
- Fly Fishers International
- National Deer Alliance
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- National Wildlife Federation
- North American Falconers Association
- Outdoor Industry Association
- Pope & Young Club
- Public Lands Foundation
- Quality Deer Management Association
- REI
- Ruffed Grouse Society
- Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
- Trout Unlimited
- Western Landowners Alliance
- Wild Salmon Center
- Wildlife Management Institute