

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
410 FIRST STREET, S.E.
SECOND FLOOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20003-1867



NRA

April 23, 2010

The Honorable James R. Inhofe
453 Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Inhofe:

The National Rifle Association supports S. 1241, which would amend PL 106-206 by creating a separate permit and fee structure for small film crews using federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Departments of Agriculture and Interior.

The NRA supports the concept of payment for the commercial use of a public benefit, such as federal lands, in order to off set management costs to provide such use. However, an Administration proposal would set fee and permit rates at such a level to be unaffordable to sportsmen's organizations that require film crews to provide information to their members about hunting and fishing opportunities on federal lands. Your legislation, S. 1241, will ease that financial burden by requiring a fee and permit structure that is commensurate with the level of impact that small film crews actually have on the landscape.

This legislation is vitally important to the NRA, as our film crews provide photographs and video for a host of NRA education outlets including the *American Hunter* and *American Rifleman* magazines; the *American Hunter*, *American Rifleman*, and *American Guardian* television shows; our websites; and our webchannel news program. To pay permits and fees at the same rates that will be applied to commercial filming on federal lands is onerous financially to non-profit organizations such as the NRA. Combined with the costs in time and staff to obtain the required permits, the expense will undermine our ability to reach our members with high quality educational information in a timely manner.

The NRA, along with other national hunting and wildlife conservation organizations and all fifty state fish and wildlife agencies, are developing and implementing programs to recruit and retain new hunters and keep our older hunters in the field. The reasons most often given by hunters for not continuing to hunt is the loss of access and the lack of information about where to hunt. Our television shows, magazines, and news programs are designed to create interesting and informative stories that will ignite interest in hunting, rekindle former interest, and sustain and build on the excitement that present day hunters have for going afield. It is the visuals that attract

today's viewers and readers to hunting stories and outdoor programs. Thus, filming has become an essential component of delivering information to current and future generations of American hunters.

The NRA very much appreciates the importance that S. 1241 places on communicating with America's hunters and anglers by requiring a separate fee structure for small film crews.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. W. Cox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a distinct "W" and "Cox" following.

Chris W. Cox
Executive Director