

Dear Chairman and vice Chair, and the rest of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. I'm Webb Johnson, the vice president of the Maryland Outfitter and guides Association. We are unfavorable to senate bill 983. Please vote no to this bill.

lead ammunition bans having no sound scientific basis, restricting the use of common lead ammunition can lead to other problems. According to NRA-ILA, non-lead ammunition is **more expensive** than traditional ammunition and is not available in the wide range of calibers and options that lead ammo is.

- A decrease in the purchase of traditional ammunition would adversely affect conservation funding. Hunters and target shooters are the largest supporters of conservation through excise taxes levied on ammunition, firearms and hunting equipment by the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937, which has generated more than \$7.2 billion in funding for wildlife conservation programs.
- In the 1980s, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) conducted studies to determine the effect of lead shot on waterfowl and raptors. The results persuaded the USFWS to propose phasing out lead shot for waterfowl hunting in zones with a high incidence of eagles consuming waterfowl that were wounded by lead shot or not retrieved.
- At that time, bald eagles were listed as an endangered species. In 1985, the National Wildlife Federation sued the USFWS to expand the proposed prohibition, citing violations of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Administrative Procedure Act.^[iv] In 1991, the USFWS implemented a nationwide ban on lead shot for waterfowl hunting. The federal regulations apply only to waterfowl—ducks, geese, swans and coots.

hunters and anglers have always been at the forefront of conservation efforts, and many have already switched to non-lead ammo and tackle as a personal decision. Lead rifle ammunition unquestionably leaves minuscule fragments in the game, but most hunters can remove it all with careful processing. Voting yes to this bill makes prices that are already high on hard to find ammo even harder to find and even higher price. There is always talk of 3rs but passing this bill might make people/youths not be able to afford to hunt or shot. At certain speeds and weights of blended metal ammunition becomes armor piercing round. Or other penetrator rounds...

please vote no to the bill sb983

thank you for your time.

