



P.O. Box 387
Canon City, CO 81215

February 11, 2019

Representative Barbara McLachlan
Chair
House Education Committee
200 E. Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

Re: House Bill 19-1116 – SUPPORT

Dear Chair McLachlan:

The undersigned groups, representing Coloradans with an interest in advancing hunting and conservation throughout the state, write today to express support for House Bill 19-1116, legislation that seeks to provide additional opportunities to expose Colorado's youth to the outdoors.

As noted in the recently released State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), "Colorado developed an Environmental Education Plan in 2012 that provides a framework to improve environmental literacy and get more of Colorado's youth outdoors. However, continued investment in education is essential to ensure that future generations of Coloradans are active in the outdoors and passionate about conserving our state's natural and cultural legacy." Collectively, we enthusiastically support this objective and encourage the General Assembly to provide the support necessary to achieve it.

With respect to recruiting and retaining the next generation of sportsmen and women, the goal of getting more youth outdoors is dually important because hunters and recreational shooters currently generate nearly \$77 million in dedicated funding to support Colorado Parks and Wildlife each year. These funds provide numerous public benefits including scientific research, public land access for outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat conservation, and endangered species recovery.

For these reasons, we support legislation – such as House Bill 19-1116 – that facilitates hunter education courses necessary to continue this proud conservation legacy, one that is a fundamental part Colorado's identity. Providing school districts, educators and prospective hunters with new opportunities and venues to incorporate curricula focusing on the importance of conservation, safety, hunting laws and regulations, personal responsibility and responsibility to wildlife is one of many steps we must take to ensure a bright future for our state's public trust resources.

With this in mind, we encourage your support of House Bill 19-1116.

Sincerely,

Coloradans for Responsible Wildlife Management

Colorado Trappers & Predator Hunters Assc.

4 Corners Chapter of SCI

Big Game Forever

Colorado Wildlife Control Operators Assc,

Colorado Chapter of Safari Club International

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Mule Deer Foundation

Sportsmen for Community