



April 23, 2026

Via email: doug_hobbs@fws.gov

Douglas Hobbs
Attn.: FWS-HQ-OC-2026-1519
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB (JAO/3W)
Falls Church, Virginia 22041-3803

Re: Safari Club International Comments on Re-Establishment of the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation and Access Council; Request for Nominations, 91 Fed. Reg. 21304 (Apr. 21, 2026)

Dear Mr. Hobbs:

Safari Club International (“SCI”) strongly supports the U.S. Department of the Interior’s (“DOI”) re-establishment of the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation and Access Council (“Council”). SCI further supports the Council’s charge and energized focus on expanding public access for hunting, fishing, and shooting sports. SCI looks forward to working with the Council to improve and expand public access and engagement in hunting and the shooting sports; to develop recommendations for wildlife and habitat conservation; and to increase public awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation and the social and economic benefits of hunting and the shooting sports.

SCI, an I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) nonprofit corporation, has approximately 100,000 members and advocates worldwide. SCI’s missions include conservation of wildlife, protection of the hunter, and education of the public concerning hunting and its use as a conservation tool. SCI’s advocacy efforts focus on promoting hunting and recreational shooting in legislatures, commissions, and courts, as well as public and policymaker education.

Hunters, anglers, and recreational shooters are the original conservationists. SCI applauds DOI for recognizing these contributions in the recent Secretarial Order 3447. As stated in that Order: “For generations, sportsmen and women have contributed to wildlife and fisheries management through license sales, excise taxes on equipment, and voluntary conservation efforts. Expanding opportunities for the public to hunt and fish on Department-managed lands not only strengthens conservation outcomes, but also supports rural economies, public health, and access to America’s outdoor spaces.”

Hunters and recreational shooters are the primary funders for conservation, restoration, management, and enhancement of game species and habitat for game and non-game species alike through hunting license sales and federal matching dollars generated from an excise tax on firearms, ammunition, and other sporting goods. Since its authorization in 1937, the Pittman-

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Robertson Act has collected and contributed over \$12.5 billion to conservation and access across the United States. The Council acknowledges this by giving hunters and recreational shooters and their advocates a seat at the table for some of the most important decisions impacting wildlife and habitat conservation, hunting and shooting expansion, and policies that benefit national and local economies.

SCI appreciates and supports the DOI's decision to reauthorize the Council. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact litigation@safariclub.org.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Laird Hamberlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

W. Laird Hamberlin
CEO, Safari Club International