

From: Office of the Governor Site Support
Sent: 5/8/2015 1:06:26 AM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: Please Support Congressional Actions to Protect State Management of Sage-grouse.

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Message:
Jonathan Barton
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May 8, 2015

1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

I am a constituent and sportsman and I am writing today in support of the inclusion of Congressman Rob Bishop's Sage-grouse language on H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), as was passed by the House Armed Service Committee on April 29, 2015.

We appreciate the leadership by members of Congress to provide states with additional time to implement their state management plans for Sage-grouse. I believe that States should be given time to demonstrate that they can continue to manage and protect Sage-grouse and their habitat. Giving these state plans time to work is key to protecting our access to 165 million acres of prime mule deer hunting areas, our rights as sportsmen and needs of our local communities.

Congressional Action is critical to protect state-management authority of Sage-grouse. Hunters, ranchers, hardworking families and Western states understand that state management is the key to critical state conservation programs which are critical to conservation of mule deer, sage-grouse, elk and other species. State conservation efforts are vital not only to Sage-grouse, but also protecting abundant wildlife populations including mule deer, elk and upland game species.

States' investment in these programs is also addressing other vital issues including wildfire, invasive species and encroachment of Pinyon Juniper. These common-sense programs are working for conservation of Sage-grouse while also protecting jobs, economic productivity and education funding of billions of dollars. This Congressional Action will protect the solutions that are working for Sage-grouse and protecting our freedoms.

It is becoming clear that the needs of the people who are investing the most in Sage-grouse conservation will be hurt the most by a premature listing decision this year. I fully support this common-sense extension of time provided by Congressman Bishop's provision on NDAA.

I urge you to support inclusion of Sage-grouse language on the National Defense Authorization Act. This is a step in the right direction. Thank you for your consideration of this issue and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Barton