

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 16, 2010

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Salazar,

We write you regarding an important issue for the sportsmen's community in Colorado and nationwide. As you know, Sec. 512 of P.L. 111-24 allows Second Amendment rights to be exercised in components of the National Park System (NPS) and National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS). Although the language singularly mentions 'firearm' with respect to self-protection in these areas, it is reasonable that this legislation, pursuant to Congressional intent, should also extend Second Amendment authority to hunting bows.

Taking this aspect of intent into account, we ask that the Department of Interior (DOI) use its rulemaking authority under the Administrative Procedure Act (P. L. 79-404) to consider allowing both traditional and compound hunting bows in NPS and NWRS lands without permit.

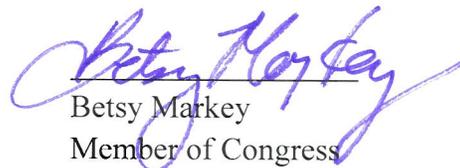
Many of our constituents in Colorado have reported extreme difficulties with DOI's permitting process in seeking to carry hunting bows through our national parks and wildlife refuges in order to access unrestricted areas, even over very short distances. This request, which would preclude further Congressional action, represents a common-sense approach to addressing this issue.

Among our greatest champions for public lands, Colorado's and the nation's bowhunters enjoy an excellent reputation for diligence, preparation and skill. We ask DOI to take bowhunters' unassailable ethics and proud tradition of conservation into account in evaluating this request. We very much appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Betsy Markey
Member of Congress