

By: Senator(s) Blackwell, Whaley, Younger

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 58

1 A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT
2 LEGISLATION TO INCLUDE AIRGUNS AND AIRBOWS WITH OTHER METHODS OF
3 TAKE AS ITEMS TAXED THROUGH THE FEDERAL WILDLIFE RESTORATION
4 PROGRAM (PITTMAN-ROBERTSON ACT).

5 WHEREAS, an airgun propels projectiles by means of compressed
6 air or other gas, rather than using an explosive charge like a
7 traditional firearm. Regulations surrounding the use of airguns
8 vary significantly from state to state. Based on airgun
9 technology, the arrow shooting airgun - a hybrid hunting product
10 that uses compressed air to fire an arrow - has now been
11 developed. Today's airguns, and now the arrow shooting airgun,
12 demonstrate a striking advancement in this technology beyond the
13 BB and pellet guns of yesterday; and

14 WHEREAS, the majority of the states prohibit the use of
15 airguns and arrow shooting airguns for big-game hunting entirely.
16 This variation between states leaves ambiguity in the minds of
17 prospective users to confirm local regulations in their respective
18 state before trying to hunt with airguns; and



19 WHEREAS, the federal Pittman-Robertson Act directs excise
20 taxes on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment to be used for
21 wildlife conservation purposes. To date, this important piece of
22 legislation has contributed nearly \$11.5 Billion to wildlife
23 conservation since enactment in 1937. The Congressional
24 Sportsmen's Foundation, Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus Members
25 and sportsmen's conservation partners are working to ensure the
26 future of this important system of wildlife conservation funding;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, the cleanest solution to this issue would be for the
29 federal government to include airguns and airbows alongside other
30 methods of take as items taxed through the Wildlife Restoration
31 Program (Pittman-Robertson), which would require a change in
32 federal tax statute:

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
34 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby urge the United States Congress to
35 enact legislation to include airguns and airbows with other
36 methods of take as items taxed through the Federal Wildlife
37 Restoration Program (Pittman-Robertson Act).

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted
39 by the Secretary of State to members of Mississippi's
40 congressional delegation and to the United States Fish and
41 Wildlife Service (USFWS), and made available to the Capitol Press
42 Corps.

