

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C., 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

We are writing to request that the tax payment due date for the federal excise taxes (FET) on sport fishing and archery equipment be delayed for a minimum of 90 days. The recreational fishing and archery industries are being severely harmed by the economic fallout related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Delaying payments of the FET, which are next due at the end of April, would provide much needed relief for these industries.

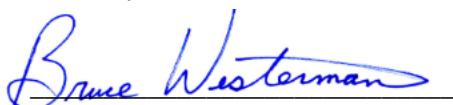
Recreational fishing, hunting and shooting sports are a vital part of the culture and economy of each of our districts. Not only do these industries support over a million jobs in the U.S. and provide a healthy form of outdoor recreation, but they also contribute substantially to conservation funding. The excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment and sportfishing equipment provide critical funding for conservation and access programs by the state fish and wildlife agencies through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in substantial revenue losses and closures for manufacturers of sportfishing and archery equipment. While these industries support the FET, delaying the due date of the FET would provide significant relief for companies that are struggling to keep their payroll going and pay for basic business operations.

On March 31, the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) announced a 90-day delay on payment due dates for all industries regulated by the agency, including on firearms and ammunition. However, that order did not cover the fishing or archery FET because these industries are not regulated by TTB. Given that the FET on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment and sportfishing equipment are all fundamentally the same, we urge you to apply a consistent tax payment due date delay for the fishing and archery industries as has already been provided to the firearms and ammunition industry.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this request.

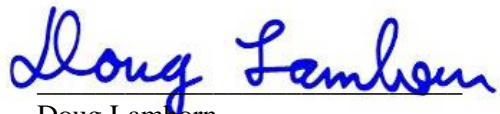
Sincerely,



Bruce Westerman



Paul Gosar

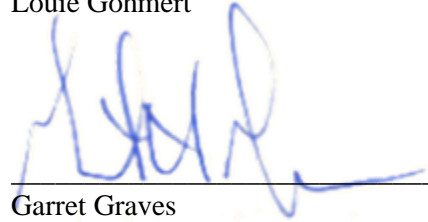

Doug Lamborn

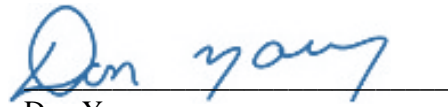

Jody Hice


Rob Wittman

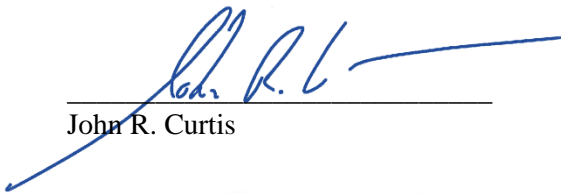

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