

06-2017 OPPOSE LEGISLATION THAT HARMS THE WILDERNESS ACT

WHEREAS, the Izaak Walton League of America strongly supported passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136); and,

WHEREAS, the Wilderness Act now protects nearly 110 million acres of federal public land for current and future generations in the National Wilderness Preservation System, including the 1.1 million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota; and,

WHEREAS, various versions of the Sportsmen's Heritage Act have been introduced in recent Congresses; and,

WHEREAS, H.R. 2406 (the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act) in the 2015-2016 Congress contained language that would have weakened the Wilderness Act by allowing any state or federal agency to build roads, dams, structures, etc., and to conduct logging, chaining, or other activities in all Wildernesses in the nation if even remotely connected to hunting, fishing, shooting, or fish and wildlife, as well as exempting such activities from environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); and

WHEREAS, new versions of such bills are likely to be reintroduced in the current 115th Congress; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America, in convention on April 30, 2017, opposes any bill that would amend or weaken the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Submitted by Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter

Author: Kevin Proescholdt.