

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
410 FIRST STREET, S.E.
SECOND FLOOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20003-1867



NRA

May 25, 2011

Dear Congressman Gibbs and Congressman Altmire:

On behalf of the National Rifle Association and our 4 million members, I am writing to express our strong support for **H.R. 1865, the Recreational Lands Self-Defense Act**, which is designed to protect the rights of gun owners on lands owned or managed by the Army Corps of Engineers.

On May 12th, 2009 legislation was passed, by an overwhelming vote that made it legal to possess firearms for self-defense on National Park Service and National Wildlife Refuge System lands. This greatly expanded the places where law-abiding Americans can legally carry firearms for self-defense. However, that change in the law did not include millions of acres of recreational land managed by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps owns or manages over 11.7 million acres, including 400 lakes and river projects, 90,000 campsites and 4,000 miles of trails. NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris W. Cox said "According to some estimates, the federal government owns 30 percent of all land across this country." Right-to-Carry permit holders are denied the ability to carry on all this land.

H.R. 1865 will reverse this Army Corps policy and prohibit the Secretary of the Army from enforcing any regulation that prohibits gun possession in compliance with state law on Corps projects and lands. The legislation would not, however, allow firearms in federal facilities such as Army Corps headquarters, Corps research facilities or lock and dam buildings.

The NRA endorses and supports H.R. 1865, the **Recreational Lands Self-Defense Act**. Thank you both for introducing this important legislation to fix the loophole in the law and please let me know if the NRA can be of any additional assistance in passing this important legislation.

Sincerely,

James J Baker
Director of Federal Affairs