

**Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation \* Dallas Safari Club \* Iowa B.A.S.S. Federation Nation \*  
Iowa Firearms Coalition \* Iowa Sportsmen's Federation \* Mule Deer Foundation \*  
National Rifle Association \* National Shooting Sports Foundation \*  
Safari Club International \* U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance**

August 3, 2011

Administrative Rules Review Committee  
Iowa Legislature  
1007 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Committee Member:

The undersigned groups would like to thank you for your dedication to our hunting heritage and your commitment to presenting Iowans with the ability to hunt doves for the first time in nearly a century. Doves are among the most abundant and popular game birds in the country, and provide a tremendous opportunity for friends and families to share time in the field as well as recruit new hunters.

Unfortunately, the recent rule to enact the season by the Iowa DNR Commission presents an unjustifiable hurdle for some to participate in the hunt. This scientifically unjustified hurdle is the portion of the rule that prohibits the use of traditional shot. In light of the fact that this prohibition is rooted solely in politics and prevailing emotion, this is a decision much better suited for elected officials who are accountable to the people.

Most of the states have had a dove season in place for decades and the vast majority of hunters use inexpensive and readily available lead shot. Despite the millions of hunters that take to the fields each fall, there has been no evidence of any deleterious impacts to dove populations from the use of lead shot. Illustrating this point is the Iowa DNR's own *Answers to Common Questions About The Mourning Dove*, which states, "Over 30 years of research has failed to show that dove hunting has any detrimental effects on dove numbers." Without new evidence to the contrary, the commission has enacted a regulation that exceeds the authority of the agency to manage the state's natural resources based on sound science. For clarification, it should also be noted that there is no evidence of population-level effects on any other species associated with the use of lead shot for hunting.

If allowed to stand, the alternative shot requirement will limit participation by the hunting public. One of the most attractive qualities of dove hunting is the difficulty in hitting the fast, erratic flying birds. Generally, hunters shoot several shells for each dove they harvest. Alternative shot is too costly for many hunters, and for some shotgun calibers like the popular .410 gauge used by many young hunters, nearly impossible to find in the required shot size.

In the absence of scientific justification, the question of whether to allow traditional shot to be used during the dove season becomes purely a social and economic decision better suited for elected officials and not an appointed commission. We urge you to postpone the enactment of the non-toxic shot portion of the rule until such time that the full legislative body has the opportunity to consider the biological, social and economic ramifications of such a provision. We stand ready to support and assist you in doing so.

Sincerely,

**Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation**

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