



NRA-ILA

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
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FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030-7400

May 24, 2007

J. Thomas Saldias
ASOCIPE Representative
P.O. Box 2669
College Station, TX 77841-2669

Dear Thomas,

The National Rifle Association (NRA), America's largest sportsmen-advocacy and conservation organization, strongly supports your tireless efforts to establish a game commission in Peru. Such an effort promises to enhance hunting opportunities for sportsmen in Peru, here in the United States and throughout the world. It will also provide untold benefits to Peru's people, economy, wildlife and general conservation efforts.

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation has proven to be the most successful game management model in the world. It treats wildlife as a public and sustainable resource. One of the indispensable components of this model is robust, scientifically managed hunting. In order to regulate and encourage hunting, a centralized, non-political administrative authority, such as a game commission, is essential. Game commissions set hunting seasons, bag limits, harvest methods and other general laws that promote hunting and healthy wildlife populations using the best available science.

Currently in Peru, hunting occurs, but it is an activity conducted in the shadows of society. Contrary to the North American Model, Peru's government gains no revenues from hunting in order to fund conservation efforts. There is no scientific management of game species in order to ensure populations flourish and are available for future generations. Foreign hunters who stimulate local economies throughout much of the rest of the world are not actively recruited in order that they spend their money and time in Peru. The establishment of a game commission in Peru would change all of this.

The potential economic impact associated with government-sanctioned hunting in Peru might be difficult to gauge but there is a reasonable comparison that can be made to three contiguous states in the United States that have identical land area, population and population density. While the ecosystems of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona are remarkably diverse, Peru's is even more diverse. The total annual economic impact of hunting in these three states is \$4.5 billion,

as reported by the National Shooting Sports Foundation. The total number of hunting licenses sold annually is 1.4 million. These three states have one thing in common – active game commissions that enthusiastically promote hunting and science-based wildlife management.

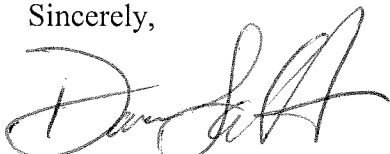
Economic activity associated with the hunting industry affects all segments of society and business. Visiting hunters support airlines, hotels, restaurants, transportation providers, local artists, hunting guides and taxidermists just to name a few. As has been proven in the United States and many other countries, hunters can support and dramatically improve entire local economies. This improves the standard of living for local residents by providing entrepreneurial opportunities that would not otherwise exist.

Hunting that is scientifically regulated by a non-political government entity, modeled after game commissions in the United States, provides for a renewable, sustainable source of private sector and government revenue. Game species thrive when hunting is allowed, because there are incentives to protect and nurture their populations and habitat. The whitetail deer in the United States is an example of this. In the early 20th Century, unregulated hunting left their numbers at dangerously low levels. Over the last half century of scientifically managed and regulated hunting, their numbers have rebounded to the point where hunting as a means of population control is critically important. Peru's wildlife populations and habitat conservation will realize the same benefits if a game commission is established.

While the economic impact of hunting, especially that produced by foreign sportsmen, is a benefit that cannot be underestimated, there is a benefit to the social structure that is at least as important. In the United States, hunting provides family members opportunities to spend time together in the field. This strengthens family bonds and provides children with lessons in personal responsibility and conservation ethics that few other activities can. Peruvian families and children will most certainly experience the same benefits if hunting is brought out of the shadows and legitimized by the government.

Peru's ecosystem is as diverse as any country's in the world. If properly managed, hunting will provide an irresistible attraction to foreign sportsmen. It will also allow Peruvians to enjoy their native resources in a manner that has not been available in the past. All of this will be made possible only through the establishment of a game commission that will encourage hunting and scientifically manage wildlife populations as a public and sustainable resource. Your efforts in this regard are to be commended and encouraged.

Sincerely,



Darren LaSorte

NRA-ILA

Manager of Hunting Policy