

March 25, 2009

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -- A proposal written by U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) that will protect sportsmen's right to hunt, fish and trap on millions of acres of public land is set to become law. Several national news outlets -- including the New York Times, Associated Press, and National Journal -- have identified the "Altmire Amendment" as the key proposal which will protect sportsmen's access to millions of acres of public land covered by the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 passed the House for a final time today and is expected to be signed into law very soon. Without the Altmire Amendment, this legislation could have allowed federal lands to be closed to sportsmen.

"I strongly support the Second Amendment, and I created the Altmire Amendment to ensure that the rights of our nation's sportsmen were not infringed upon," Altmire said. "I am proud that the Altmire Amendment will ensure American sportsmen can continue to use and enjoy millions of acres of public lands for decades to come."

"Encroaching development and the increasing population demand for open space has resulted in the closure of federal lands that were once open to traditional forms of recreation, such as hunting and target shooting," Chris W. Cox, Executive Director of the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislation Action, wrote in a letter in support of the Altmire Amendment. "The meaningful protections provided by the Altmire amendment are critical to preserve access for sportsmen."

Altmire has a strong record of protecting the Second Amendment. He was recently appointed to the Second Amendment Task Force (SATF), a new bipartisan coalition committed to protecting gun owners' rights and fighting legislation that undermines them. Last year, Altmire also joined with fellow conservative Democrats to introduce the Second Amendment Enforcement Act, legislation that would stop the District of Columbia from placing unnecessary restrictions on gun owners' rights.

