November 26, 2012

Re: Boxer Amendment on Lead Bullets and Sinkers (S. 3525)

Dear Senator:

We are a coalition of more than 200 conservation, angling, veterinarian, birding, animal welfare, public employee and other citizen groups and scientists who support the amendment of Senator Barbara Boxer to bring science into the Congressional debate about lead bullets, ammunition and fishing sinkers through your consideration of S. 3525, the Sportsmen’s Bill.

Lead is a known neurotoxin that causes serious and multiple health problems for humans, and stunts mental development in children. Lead deposited in the wild or entering the food chain from hunting and fishing activities causes lead exposure for many species of wildlife. There is extensive information on unintentional lead poisoning of bald eagles, swans, loons, condors, ravens, bears and other wildlife from lead ammunition fragments, spent lead shot and lead fishing sinkers. Hunters, ironically, are particularly at risk from lead poisoning from ingesting lead fragments and residues in game shot with lead ammunition. Recent studies have demonstrated higher lead in the blood of hunters eating lead-infected meat and also shown dangerous lead contamination of venison donations to low-income food banks.

There was not one hearing or congressional debate on the current exemption for lead bullets, ammunition and fishing sinkers in S.3535 from the Toxic Substances Control Act. There is a reason we took lead out of gasoline and home paints – it is a dangerous and harmful substance; no one disagrees with this fact. The current lead provisions of the Sportsmen’s Bill would prevent evaluation of the risks to the environment and human health from a significant source of lead exposure for wildlife and people, even though a wide array of non-lead alternatives allow sportsmen to continue to hunt and fish with nontoxic ammunition and fishing sinkers.

The Boxer Amendment is reasonable: it would eliminate a dangerous provision in the bill that would prevent any evaluation or action on lead poisonings in wildlife caused by hunting ammunition and fishing tackle left behind in the wild; it would also require that, before the EPA takes any action, a study be conducted of the potential threats to human health, wildlife and the environment from lead ammunition and fishing tackle. The Boxer Amendment is pro-sportsperson. The Boxer Amendment protects our cherished wildlife. The Boxer Amendment safeguards our health from a known toxin.

Please allow a vote on the Boxer Amendment. Please vote “yes” on the Boxer Amendment.

Sincerely,

American Eagle Foundation
Pigeon Forge, TN

American Forests
Washington, DC
American University Law School Environmental Law Society
Washington, DC

Action for Animals
Oakland, CA

Alameda Creek Alliance
Niles, CA

Alliance for the Wild Rockies
Helena, MT

Animals Are Sentient Beings
Cambridge, MA

Animal Welfare Institute
Washington, DC

Arc Ecology
San Francisco, CA

Arizona Wilderness Coalition
Tucson, AZ

Arkansas Audubon Society
Conway, AR

Ascend Development Group
Royal, VA

Association of Avian Veterinarians
Boulder, CO

Audubon Maryland-DC
Baltimore, MD

Audubon Society of Central Arkansas
Little Rock, AR

Audubon Society of New Hampshire
Concord, NH

Berkshire Environmental Action Team
Pittsfield, MA

Biodiversity Conservation Alliance
Laramie, WY

Bird Conservation Network
Highland Park, IL
Blue Eco Legal Council
Highland Park, IL

Blue Ridge Wildlife Center
Boyce, VA

Blue Water Baltimore
Baltimore, MD

Boulder County Audubon Society
Boulder, CO

Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon Society
Brainerd MN

Braveheart Raptor Rehabilitation Center
Twin Lake, MI

Bridgerland Audubon Society
Logan, UT

Californians for Western Wilderness
San Francisco, CA

Cascades Raptor Center
Eugene, OR

Cascadia Wildlands
Eugene, OR

Center for Biological Diversity
Tucson, AZ

Center for Food Safety
Washington, DC

Center for International Environmental Law
Washington, DC

Center for Public Environmental Oversight
Mountain View, CA

Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation
Georgetown, CA

Charleston Natural History Society
Charleston, SC

Chocolay Raptor Center
Marquette, MI
The Clinch Coalition
Wise, VA

Conservation Northwest
Bellingham, WA

CORALations
Culebra, PR

Corpus Christi Clean Economy Coalition
Corpus Christi, TX

DC Environmental Network
Washington, DC

Don't Waste Arizona
Phoenix, AZ

Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society
Asheville, NC

Empty Cages Collective
Brooklyn, NY

Endangered Habitats League
Los Angeles, CA

Endangered Species Coalition
Washington, DC

Environmental Action Committee of West Marin
Point Reyes Station, CA

Environmental Protection Information Center
Arcata, CA

Flyaway, Inc.
Garrison, NY

Four Harbors Audubon Society
St. James, NY

Freedom Center for Wildlife
Cinnaminson, NJ

Friends of the Arroyos
Livermore CA

Friends of the Clearwater
Moscow, ID
Friends of the Cloquet Valley State Forest
Duluth, MN

Friends of the Earth
Washington, DC

Friends of Five Creeks
Berkeley, CA

Friends of Islais Creek
San Francisco, CA

Friends of the Santa Clara River
Newbury Park, CA

Friends of Springtown Preserve
Livermore, CA

Friends of Whitehaven Park
Washington, DC

Friends of the Wild Swan
Bigfork, MT

Fund for Wild Nature
Kelso, WA

Golden Gate Audubon Society
Berkeley, CA

Golden Gate Raptor Observatory
Sausalito, CA

Grand Canyon Trust
Flagstaff, AZ

Grand Canyon Wildlands Council
Flagstaff, AZ

Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Durango, CO

Great Plains Restoration Council
Houston, TX

Great Salt Lake Audubon
Salt Lake City, UT

Greenpeace
Washington, DC
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
Orwigsburg, PA

Heartwood
Gosport, IN

Hillcrest Environmental Action Team
Binghamton, NY

Hilton Head Island Audubon Society
Hilton Head Island, SC

Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History
York, SC

Houston Audubon Society
Houston, TX

Howard County Bird Club
Columbia, MD

Howling for Wolves
Hopkins, MN

Humane Society of the United States
Washington, DC

Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association
Davis, CA

In Defense of Animals
San Rafael, CA

The Institute for Bird Populations
Point Reyes Station, CA

Interfaith Council for the Protection of Animals and Nature
Atlanta, GA

International Fund for Animal Welfare
Washington, DC

International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council
Eugene, OR

Iowa Association of Naturalists
Indianola, IA

Jayhawk Audubon Society
Lawrence, KS
Juniata Valley Audubon Society
Tyrone, PA

Kittitas Audubon Society
Ellensburg, WA

Klamath Forest Alliance
Orleans, CA

Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Ashland, OR

Knob and Valley Audubon Society
New Albany, IN

Labor Network for Sustainability
Washington, DC

Lahontan Audubon Society
Reno, NV

The Lands Council
Spokane, WA

Lane County Audubon Society
Eugene, OR

Laramie Audubon Society
Laramie, WY

Lehigh Gap Nature Center
Slatington, PA

Lehigh Valley Audubon Society
Emmaus, PA

Life of the Land
Honolulu, HI

Loon Lake Loon Association
Loon Lake, WA

Loon Preservation Committee
Moultonborough, NH

LoonWatch
Ashland, WI

Los Padres Forest Watch
Santa Barbara, CA
The Lower Kickapoo Initiative
Gays Mills, WI

Madison Audubon Society
Madison, WI

Madrone Audubon Society
Santa Rosa, CA

Maricopa Audubon Society
Phoenix, AZ

Marin Audubon Society
Mill Valley, CA

Maryland Ornithological Society
Ellicott City, MD

Massachusetts Forest Watch
Boston, MA

Minnehaha Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America
Minneapolis, MN

Mobile Bay Audubon Society
Fairhope, AL

MOMS Advocating Sustainability
Mill Valley, CA

Monmouth County Audubon Society
Red Bank, NJ

Monterey Audubon Society
Monterey, CA

National Wolfwatcher Coalition
East Greenwich, RI

Nebraska Wildlife Rehab, Inc.
Omaha, NE

New Mexico Audubon Council
Albuquerque, NM

New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
Albuquerque, NM

North County Watch
Templeton, CA
North Fork Audubon Society
Mattituck, NY

Northcoast Environmental Center
Arcata, CA

Northeast Oregon Ecosystems
Joseph, OR

Northern California Council, Federation of Fly Fishers
Fremont, CA

Ohlone Audubon Society
Hayward, CA

Palouse Audubon Society
Moscow, ID

Physicians for Social Responsibility
Washington, DC

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Arizona Chapter
Tucson, AZ

Prairie Dog Pals
Albuquerque, NM

Preserve Lamorinda Open Space
Moraga, CA

Preserve Our Wildlife
Sarasota, FL

Project Coyote
Larkspur, CA

Public Citizen
Washington, DC

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
Washington, DC

Rainforest Action Network
San Francisco, CA

Rainforest Relief
New York, NY

Rainier Audubon Society
Auburn, WA
Raptor Education Group
Antigo, WI

Raptor Services, LLC
Stevens Point, WI

Raptors Are The Solution
Berkeley, CA

Red Rock Audubon Society
Las Vegas, NV

Regional Parks Association
Berkeley, CA

The Rewilding Institute
Albuquerque, NM

Rocky Mountain Wild
Denver, CO

Rogue Valley Audubon Society
Medford, OR

Safe Minds
Huntington Beach, CA

Salmon Protection And Watershed Network
Forest Knolls, CA

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
Cupertino, CA

Save the Frogs
Santa Cruz, CA

Save Our Sky Blue Waters
Duluth, MN

Sciencecorps
Lexington, MA

Seminole Audubon Society
Sanford, FL

Sequoia ForestKeeper
Weldon, CA

Sherier Forest Conservancy
Washington, DC
South Florida Audubon Society  
Fort Lauderdale, FL  

South Florida Wildlands Association  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL  

Stewards of the Earth  
Oxnard, CA  

Strawberry Creek Watershed Council  
Berkeley, CA  

Stream Systems, Inc.  
Concord, CA  

Sustainable Futures  
Washington, DC  

Swan View Coalition  
Kalispell, MT  

Sycamore Audubon Society  
West Lafayette, IN  

TEDX (The Endocrine Disruption Exchange)  
Paonia, CO  

Tehama Wild Care  
Cottonwood, CA  

Tennessee Ornithological Society  
Munford, TN  

Teton Raptor Center  
Wilson, WY  

Tri-City Ecology Center  
Fremont, CA  

The Trumpeter Swan Society  
Plymouth, MN  

Trust for Lead Poisoning Prevention  
Oxon Hill, MD  

Turtle Island Restoration Network  
Olema, CA  

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth  
Portland, OR
Urban Creeks Coalition of California
Berkeley, CA

Ventana Wilderness Alliance
Santa Cruz, CA

Vermont Institute of Natural Science
Quechee, VT

VINE Sanctuary
Springfield, VT

Virginia Society of Ornithology
Blue Grass, VA

Walden's Puddle Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center
Joelton, TN

Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation
Walnut Creek, CA

WaterKeeper Alliance
New York, NY

Western Nebraska Resources Council
Chadron, NE

Western Watersheds Project
Hailey, ID

Western Wildlife Conservancy
Salt Lake City, UT

White Mountain Conservation League
Nutrioso, AZ

Wild Equity Institute
San Francisco, CA

Wild Fish Conservancy
Duvall, WA

Wild Heritage Planners
Los Angeles, CA

Wild Nature Institute
Hanover, NH

Wild Virginia
Charlottesville, VA
Wild Wings, Inc.
Old Greenwich, CT

Wild Wings Raptor Rehabilitation
Sisters, OR

WildCare
San Rafael, CA

WildEarth Guardians
Phoenix, AZ

Wilderness Watch
Missoula, MT

Wilderness Workshop
Carbondale, CO

Wildlife Center of the North Coast
Astoria, OR

Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation
Kendalia, TX

WildWest Institute
Missoula, MT

Wings of Wonder
Empire, MI

Wisconsin Audubon Council
Madison, WI

Wolf Conservation Center
South Salem, NY

Women’s Voices for the Earth
Missoula, MT

Wyoming Outdoor Council
Landier, WY

Yellowbilled Tours
Pleasanton, CA

Zumbro Valley Audubon Society
Rochester, MN

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New Hyde Park, NY

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Laramie, WY
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Associate Professor at Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine; focus on environmental pathology (including toxicology) of wildlife species; expert on lead toxicosis in wildlife and public health

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Wildlife Ecologist; 30 years experience studying raptors

Noel Snyder, Ph.D.
Portal, AZ
Evolutionary biologist; former member of U.S. Fish and Wildlife recovery team for the California condor; author of The California Condor, a Saga of Natural History and Conservation

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Wildlife Photographer and Eco-Psychologist