

# Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.

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[www.vtfsc.org](http://www.vtfsc.org)

VTFSC  
454 S Main Street  
Northfield VT, 05663

State of Vermont  
House Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Committee  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

January 16, 2018

RE: VTFSC Opposition to H.591

TO: Members of the Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Committee

The Vermont Federation of Sportsmen Clubs (VTFSC) is an association that has existed in some form since 1875, and we represent 51 member clubs with well over 11,000 members. These clubs are primarily Fish & Game clubs, or are otherwise clubs that are geared towards outdoor sporting interests.

We wish to convey to the Committee our strong opposition to H.591, and request that the Committee listen to the stance of the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife whose position we support.

The Federation does not want to have Dingle-Johnson and/or Pittman-Robertson funds that Vermont receives from the Federal Government in any way endangered or jeopardized for potential violation of the use requirements that are coupled to these funds.

For your information, Vermont has received \$21,185,786 in Pittman-Robertson funds in the past five years, and Vermont also received \$17,426,495 in Dingle-Johnson funds for the same period, of which \$2,613,794 was designated for boating access.

## Dingle-Johnson Restoration Apportionments for the past 5 years

| Year      | Total Apportionment | Sport Fish Allocation | Boating Access Allocation |
|-----------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 2013      | \$3,598,719         | \$2,058,911           | \$539,808                 |
| 2014      | \$3,257,403         | \$2,768,793           | \$488,610                 |
| 2015      | \$3,465,173         | \$2,945,397           | \$519,776                 |
| 2016      | \$3,610,771         | \$3,069,155           | \$541,616                 |
| 2017      | \$3,494,429         | \$2,970,265           | \$524,164                 |
| TOTALS -> | <b>\$17,426,495</b> | <b>\$14,821,521</b>   | <b>\$2,613,794</b>        |

In addition to the revenues from Vermont Hunting (in all forms) and fishing licenses and permits, in just the past 5 years Vermont has received Federal money from Pittman-Robertson and Dingle-Johnson excise fess that total \$38,612,281.

Fish & Wildlife has already clearly posted the priority of use at Boating Accesses, and this prioritization favors those who have paid their hard-earned money for sporting licenses, fees and excise taxes - so it makes a great deal of sense to us that these same citizens should have some simple priority over those that pay nothing - while still allowing use by non-payers. It is unconscionable to consider non-payers as having an equal or even greater priority than those who do pay.

We respectfully request that the Committee listen to the recommendations of the Fish & Wildlife Department on this matter, which is the same position advocated by the Federation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Bradley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Chris Bradley  
President - VTFSC

Cc: Chair - David Deen  
Vice Chair - Mary Sullivan  
Ranking Member - Steve Beyor  
Member - David Ainsworth  
Member - Paul Lefebvre  
Member - James McCullough  
Member - Carole Ode  
Clerk - Trevor Squirrel  
Member - Thomas Terenzini  
Assistant - Christy Ketchel

Attachment: Breakout of Pittman-Robertson money received by Vermont since 1939