

July 1, 2005

The Honorable George Bush
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Request for Intervention on Proposed Navy Landing Field in Eastern North Carolina

Dear Mr. President:

Eastern North Carolina is known as one of the finest hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation destinations along the entire Atlantic coast. The Albemarle-Pamlico Region is particularly noteworthy for the winter waterfowl that gather there in the hundreds of thousands, attracting sportsmen and -women from across the country. Some of the east coast's last and best habitat for waterfowl and wildlife exists among the sounds, lakes, wetlands, fields, forests, and unique pocosins of this region.

We are therefore very concerned over a proposal by the U.S. Navy to construct a jet landing field right in the heart of this oasis and within five miles of one of the area's most important refuges, the Pungo Lake unit of the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. Wildlife experts from national, state and local agencies, as well as sportsmen's organizations have raised concerns over pilot safety and the potential destructive impact to wildlife in the region should this facility be constructed. The Navy's plan has been successfully challenged in federal court, but indications that the Navy plan to appeal is the reason that we are seeking your assistance at this time.

We fully realize that military training is essential for national security and in no way are we suggesting that this should be compromised. However, we seriously question the wisdom of continuing to pursue this specific site, especially when we understand that there are available alternative sites that could be pursued that would fulfill the Navy's training requirement, but without such a negative impact to a globally significant wildlife area.

Your intervention in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Archery Trade Association
Boone and Crockett Club
Bowhunting Preservation Alliance
Campfire Club of America
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Dallas Safari Club
Delta Waterfowl

Ducks Unlimited
International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
International Hunter Education Association
Izaak Walton League of America
National Rifle Association
North American Bear Foundation
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Safari Club International
US Sportsmen's Alliance
Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute