



Media Advisory

Feb. 7, 2017

Contact: Katie McKalip, 406-240-9262, mckalip@backcountryhunters.org

**Press Conference, Wednesday, Feb. 8,
9 a.m. MT/11 a.m. ET**

**Police Join Sportsmen in Opposing Congressional Move
to Eliminate Law Enforcement on public lands**

Career law enforcement employees and sportsmen urge Rep. Jason Chaffetz to withdraw bill, stress importance of cooperative law enforcement to health, safety of public lands

On Jan. 24, Rep. Jason Chaffetz of Utah introduced the Local Enforcement for Local Lands Act ([H.R. 622](#)) in the U.S. House of Representatives. H.R. 622 would eliminate federal law enforcement officers on America's national forests and Bureau of Land Management lands, leaving hundreds of millions of acres vulnerable to abuse and lawless behavior, taxing state and local authorities and fundamentally compromising American's safety, both in and around public lands.

H.R. 622 would negatively impact our treasured lands and waters at a time when law enforcement is critically needed to safeguard important natural and cultural resources and secure public safety. Local, state and federal law enforcement have a long and successful history of cooperation. Public lands users such as sportsmen understand and support this tradition.

Last week, Rep. Chaffetz withdrew a companion bill to H.R. 622. H.R. 621 would have mandated the sale of more than 3 million acres of public lands. His decision to abandon the bill followed strong, outspoken and unrelenting criticism from sportsmen and others.

Now, sportsmen are joining forces with the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association and other law enforcement officers to advocate for safe, consistent enforcement on U.S. public lands – and to urge Rep. Chaffetz to withdraw from the House of Representatives H.R. 622.

Join a press conference on Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 9 a.m. MT/11 a.m. ET to learn about H.R. 622 and why citizens are uniting behind this threat to our public lands.

Speakers will include the following:

- **Pat O'Carroll**, Executive Director, Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA), Maryland
- **Jay Webster**, Patrol Captain (retired), U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement & Investigations (USFS LEI), Washington state
- **Lanny Wagner**, Chief Law Enforcement Ranger (retired), U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Colorado
- **Randy Newberg**, Host, "Fresh Tracks" and "Hunt Talk Podcast," Montana
- **Moderator: Land Tawney**, President and CEO, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Montana

To join the call, dial [1-800-247-5110](tel:1-800-247-5110) and enter passcode 98517.

Please RSVP to Katie McKalip at 406-240-9262 or mckalip@backcountryhunters.org.

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers is the sportsmen's voice for our wild public lands, waters and wildlife.

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