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STATE & LOCAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
BRIAN JUDY, IDAHO STATE DIRECTOR

TO: Senate Resources & Environment Committee
FROM: Brian Judy, NRA-ILA Idaho State Director
DATE: February 25, 2020
RE: House Bill 396 – SUPPORT

On behalf of the tens of thousands of National Rifle Association members who live in the state of Idaho, I would like to register strong support for House Bill 396.

HB 396 would: 1) Authorize the Fish & Game (F&G) Commission to develop, operate and maintain public shooting ranges and to assist in the location or relocation of shooting ranges; 2) Empower the F&G Director to consult with other agencies to identify land suitable for shooting ranges; and 3) Establish a Public Shooting Range Fund for the purpose of establishing and preserving public shooting ranges throughout Idaho.

Firearm shooting ranges have established a long tradition of service to a wide variety of citizen groups in local communities. They serve as training facilities for law enforcement officials and military personnel, they offer firearm and hunter education and safety courses which provide invaluable hands-on instruction in the safe and proper handling and use of firearms and they serve as a location to hold both informal practice sessions and organized competitions for those engaged in recreational shooting.

It is important that the State of Idaho commit adequate attention and resources to help maintain the current ranges and help provide new facilities when the demand presents itself. The provision of safe places for law-abiding citizens to use their firearms is of paramount importance in a state like Idaho which has such a strong tradition of firearms ownership and use.

The preservation of existing shooting ranges and the establishment of new ranges in Idaho will provide real benefits to Idaho's law-abiding firearm users and to the public at large.

The members of the National Rifle Association urge your **support for House Bill 396.**