

# Fact Sheet

## Support the Computer-Assisted Remote Hunting Act—H.R. 2711/S. 2422

### Pull the Plug on Internet Hunting

**The Computer-Assisted Remote Hunting Act, S. 2422 and H.R. 2711**, has been introduced by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) in the Senate and by Reps. Brad Sherman (D-CA) and Tom Davis (R-VA) in the House. The legislation seeks to restrict the availability of Internet hunting. It is narrow in scope and would not impact any other type of hunting activity. Original cosponsors include some of the key sportsmen's advocates in the Congress—such as Reps. Collin Peterson (D-MN), Don Young (R-AK), and Mike Thompson (D-CA).

Internet hunting, also called remote-controlled hunting, utilizes Internet technology to allow a computer user to aim and fire a weapon that is mounted on a mechanized tripod at a remote location. Live-Shot.com, owned and operated by an entrepreneur in San Antonio, Texas, offered Internet hunts until the practice was outlawed in the state. Unfortunately, a number of states do not prohibit Internet hunting; therefore, federal legislation banning this practice is crucial to prevent the start-up of similar operations across the country.

Internet hunts work like this: The prospective “hunter” signs up through a web site, and pays a user fee and a deposit. The target animal purchased is lured to a feeding station within range of the rifle. When the target approaches the food, the Internet hunter uses a mouse to line up the animal in the on-screen crosshairs. A click of the mouse fires the rifle. Trophy mounts are prepared at the ranch and shipped to the customer.

This desk-top killing amounts to video monitored slaughter, with no tenets of fair chase or sportsmanship. According to Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of **The Humane Society of the United States**:

Hunting over the Internet is an appalling application of technology, and it is critical that federal lawmakers step in to halt the use of the Internet for this perverse form of animal cruelty. It is pay-per-view slaughter, and it has no resemblance to traditional forms of hunting.

The nation's leading hunting groups have also weighed in against Internet hunting. Kelly Hobbs of the **National Rifle Association** states:

The NRA has always maintained that fair chase, being in the field with your firearm or bow, is an important element of hunting tradition. Sitting at your desk in front of your computer, clicking at a mouse, has nothing to do with hunting.

**Safari Club International** agrees that Internet hunting “doesn't meet any fair chase criteria.”

In the last two years, 34 states – Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin – have already enacted prohibitions on Internet hunting. Bills are pending in additional states.

Nevertheless, the interstate and international nature of this activity necessitates federal legislation. The creator of the now-defunct Texas web site has indicated the desire for Internet hunting to move off-shore, and has received inquiries from others in the U.S. asking for advice on how to set up Internet hunting sites.



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2100 L Street, NW Washington, DC 20037

t 202.452.1100 f 202.778.6132 [humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org)