



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

January 8, 2026

The Right Honourable Emma Reynolds MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
United Kingdom

Secretary Reynolds,

Warm greetings from the U.S. Department of the Interior. The enduring partnership between our nations is built on shared values—among them, a deep commitment to conservation, responsible stewardship, and logical decision-making. In that spirit, I write to express concern about the proposed Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Act 2025.

While well-intentioned, the legislation risks undermining conservation efforts not only in the United States, but in communities around the world. Legal, well-regulated hunting—particularly trophy hunting—plays a vital role in supporting healthy wildlife populations, restoring habitat, and supporting local economies. In the U.S., this model is guided by science and implemented by states and tribes who set quotas to manage species like the American alligator and black bear. These efforts help prevent overpopulation, reduce human-wildlife conflict, and ensure long-term viability.

Beyond ecological impact, hunting traditions carry cultural significance and provide communities with sustainable sources of food and income. When managed responsibly, they foster respect for nature and reinforce the connection between people and the land.

The U.S. Department of the Interior recognizes these benefits and enforces strict import regulations through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the Lacey Act. These frameworks ensure that any sport-hunted trophy imported into the United States meets rigorous standards for legal compliance and contributes meaningfully to species conservation.

CITES provides a global mechanism for Parties to raise concerns, propose changes to species listings, and strengthen conservation outcomes through collaborative action. We respectfully

encourage the United Kingdom to engage through these established channels rather than pursue a blanket ban on all imports. Such a ban risks unintended consequences for conservation funding, habitat protection, and community engagement—both in the United States and abroad.

As Parliament considers the Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Act 2025, we ask that these comments be taken into thoughtful consideration. The Department of the Interior values our longstanding relationship with the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and welcomes continued dialogue to advance conservation strategies that are science-based, effective, and equitable.

With respect and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Doug Burgum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Doug Burgum
Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior