

## HR 2494

Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** May 21, 2015

**Current Status:** Became Public Law No: 114-231.

**Latest Action:** Became Public Law No: 114-231. (Oct 7, 2016)

**Law:** 114-231 (Enacted Oct 7, 2016)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2494>

### Sponsor

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**Name:** Rep. Royce, Edward R. [R-CA-39]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

**Cosponsors** (113 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]	D · CA		May 21, 2015
Rep. Crenshaw, Ander [R-FL-4]	R · FL		May 21, 2015
Rep. Cuellar, Henry [D-TX-28]	D · TX		May 21, 2015
Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-16]	D · NY		May 21, 2015
Rep. Keating, William R. [D-MA-9]	D · MA		May 21, 2015
Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]	D · MN		May 21, 2015
Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2]	R · TX		May 21, 2015
Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]	R · NJ		May 21, 2015
Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-17]	D · PA		Jun 2, 2015
Rep. Cook, Paul [R-CA-8]	R · CA		Jun 9, 2015
Rep. Farr, Sam [D-CA-20]	D · CA		Jun 9, 2015
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]	D · CA		Jun 9, 2015
Rep. McCaul, Michael T. [R-TX-10]	R · TX		Jun 9, 2015
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Jun 9, 2015
Rep. Pearce, Stevan [R-NM-2]	R · NM		Jun 9, 2015
Rep. Polis, Jared [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Jun 9, 2015
Rep. Rangel, Charles B. [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Jun 9, 2015
Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13]	D · OH		Jun 9, 2015
Rep. Weber, Randy K., Sr. [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Jun 9, 2015
Rep. Wilson, Joe [R-SC-2]	R · SC		Jun 9, 2015
Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Jun 11, 2015
Rep. Stefanik, Elise M. [R-NY-21]	R · NY		Jun 15, 2015
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Capuano, Michael E. [D-MA-7]	D · MA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1]	R · OH		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Davis, Susan A. [D-CA-53]	D · CA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6]	R · FL		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Deutch, Theodore E. [D-FL-21]	D · FL		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Fortenberry, Jeff [R-NE-1]	R · NE		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Israel, Steve [D-NY-3]	D · NY		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. McKinley, David B. [R-WV-1]	R · WV		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. McNerney, Jerry [D-CA-9]	D · CA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]	D · NY		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Price, David E. [D-NC-4]	D · NC		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Ribble, Reid J. [R-WI-8]	R · WI		Jun 25, 2015

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-8]	D · NJ		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33]	D · TX		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Walz, Timothy J. [D-MN-1]	D · MN		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Yoho, Ted S. [R-FL-3]	R · FL		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Collins, Chris [R-NY-27]	R · NY		Jul 7, 2015
Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6]	D · WA		Jul 7, 2015
Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33]	D · CA		Jul 7, 2015
Rep. McSally, Martha [R-AZ-2]	R · AZ		Jul 7, 2015
Rep. Meadows, Mark [R-NC-11]	R · NC		Jul 7, 2015
Rep. Trott, David A. [R-MI-11]	R · MI		Jul 7, 2015
Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8]	D · VA		Jul 9, 2015
Rep. Russell, Steve [R-OK-5]	R · OK		Jul 9, 2015
Rep. Pittenger, Robert [R-NC-9]	R · NC		Jul 13, 2015
Rep. LoBiondo, Frank A. [R-NJ-2]	R · NJ		Jul 15, 2015
Rep. Walters, Mimi [R-CA-45]	R · CA		Jul 15, 2015
Rep. Coffman, Mike [R-CO-6]	R · CO		Jul 16, 2015
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]	D · CA		Jul 16, 2015
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Jul 21, 2015
Rep. Donovan, Daniel M., Jr. [R-NY-11]	R · NY		Jul 21, 2015
Rep. Esty, Elizabeth H. [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Jul 21, 2015
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Michael G. [R-PA-8]	R · PA		Jul 21, 2015
Rep. Salmon, Matt [R-AZ-5]	R · AZ		Jul 21, 2015
Rep. Granger, Kay [R-TX-12]	R · TX		Jul 23, 2015
Rep. Zeldin, Lee M. [R-NY-1]	R · NY		Jul 27, 2015
Rep. Brooks, Susan W. [R-IN-5]	R · IN		Jul 28, 2015
Rep. Lowey, Nita M. [D-NY-17]	D · NY		Jul 28, 2015
Rep. Boyle, Brendan F. [D-PA-13]	D · PA		Jul 31, 2015
Rep. Costa, Jim [D-CA-16]	D · CA		Jul 31, 2015
Rep. Dold, Robert J. [R-IL-10]	R · IL		Jul 31, 2015
Rep. Loebsack, David [D-IA-2]	D · IA		Jul 31, 2015
Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-28]	D · CA		Jul 31, 2015
Rep. Capps, Lois [D-CA-24]	D · CA		Aug 4, 2015
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. O'Rourke, Beto [D-TX-16]	D · TX		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Rice, Kathleen M. [D-NY-4]	D · NY		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-25]	D · NY		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Quigley, Mike [D-IL-5]	D · IL		Sep 9, 2015

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]	D · CA		Sep 9, 2015
Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52]	D · CA		Sep 15, 2015
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Sep 15, 2015
Rep. Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana [R-FL-27]	R · FL		Sep 18, 2015
Rep. Curbelo, Carlos [R-FL-26]	R · FL		Sep 22, 2015
Rep. Frankel, Lois [D-FL-22]	D · FL		Sep 22, 2015
Rep. Valadao, David G. [R-CA-21]	R · CA		Sep 25, 2015
Rep. Aguilar, Pete [D-CA-31]	D · CA		Sep 30, 2015
Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [D-VA-11]	D · VA		Sep 30, 2015
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Sep 30, 2015
Rep. Marino, Tom [R-PA-10]	R · PA		Sep 30, 2015
Rep. Miller, Jeff [R-FL-1]	R · FL		Sep 30, 2015
Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]	D · FL		Sep 30, 2015
Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]	D · NY		Oct 5, 2015
Rep. Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" [R-GA-1]	R · GA		Oct 7, 2015
Rep. Katko, John [R-NY-24]	R · NY		Oct 7, 2015
Rep. Hanna, Richard L. [R-NY-22]	R · NY		Oct 8, 2015
Rep. Forbes, J. Randy [R-VA-4]	R · VA		Oct 13, 2015
Rep. Love, Mia B. [R-UT-4]	R · UT		Oct 21, 2015
Rep. Rogers, Harold [R-KY-5]	R · KY		Oct 21, 2015
Del. Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [D-GU-At Large]	D · GU		Oct 26, 2015
Rep. DelBene, Suzan K. [D-WA-1]	D · WA		Oct 26, 2015
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Oct 26, 2015
Rep. Womack, Steve [R-AR-3]	R · AR		Oct 26, 2015
Rep. Duncan, John J., Jr. [R-TN-2]	R · TN		Nov 2, 2015
Rep. Holding, George [R-NC-13]	R · NC		Nov 2, 2015
Rep. Kirkpatrick, Ann [D-AZ-1]	D · AZ		Nov 2, 2015
Rep. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM-3]	D · NM		Nov 2, 2015
Rep. Reichert, David G. [R-WA-8]	R · WA		Nov 2, 2015
Resident Commissioner Pierluisi, Pedro R. [D-PR-At Large]	D · PR		Nov 2, 2015

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Markup By	Jun 25, 2015
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Reported By	May 9, 2016
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 16, 2015
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 10, 2015

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 27	Related bill	<b>Jan 6, 2015:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S14-15)

## **Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016**

This bill addresses wildlife trafficking, which is the poaching or other illegal taking of protected or managed species and the illegal trade in wildlife and their related parts and products.

### **TITLE I--PURPOSES AND POLICY**

(Sec. 102) The bill states that it is the policy of the United States to:

- take immediate actions to stop the illegal global trade in wildlife and wildlife products and associated transnational organized crime;
- employ appropriate assets and resources for curtailing poaching and disrupting and dismantling illegal wildlife trade networks and the financing of those networks in each foreign country that is a major source or major transit point of wildlife trafficking products or their derivatives, or a major consumer of wildlife trafficking products (focus country);
- provide assistance in helping focus countries in halting the poaching of imperiled species and ending the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products;
- build upon the "National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking" published on February 11, 2014, or a successor strategy, to further combat wildlife trafficking; and
- recognize the ties of wildlife trafficking to broader forms of transnational organized criminal activities, and where applicable, to focus on those crimes.

### **TITLE II--REPORT ON MAJOR WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING COUNTRIES**

(Sec. 201) The Department of State must submit an annual report for five years after this bill's enactment that: (1) lists each focus country as determined by the State Department; and (2) identifies each country of concern, which is a focus country with a government that has actively engaged in or knowingly profited from the trafficking of endangered or threatened species.

### **TITLE III--FRAMEWORK FOR INTERAGENCY RESPONSE**

(Sec. 301) The bill establishes coordination and collaboration requirements for the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking.

Each year the task force must submit a strategic assessment of its work and provide a briefing to appropriate congressional committees.

The bill terminates the task force five years after enactment of this bill, unless the President terminates it on an earlier date.

### **TITLE IV--PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THE ESCALATING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING CRISIS**

(Sec. 401) The State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) may provide assistance to focus countries for improving the effectiveness of wildlife law enforcement in regions and countries that have demonstrated capacity, willingness, and need for assistance.

The bill urges the United States to continue providing defense articles (not including significant military equipment), defense services, and related training to appropriate security forces of African countries for countering wildlife trafficking and poaching.

(Sec. 402) The State Department and USAID may design and implement programs in focus countries for: (1) increasing the capacity of wildlife law enforcement and customs and border security officers in the countries, or (2) combating the transnational trade in illegal wildlife.

(Sec. 403) Each chief of mission to a focus country should begin to implement the recommendations on wildlife trafficking contained in the task force's strategic plan within two years of this bill's enactment. (A chief of mission is the principal officer in charge of a U.S. diplomatic mission or of a U.S. office abroad which is diplomatic in nature. The chief of mission is often, but not always, an ambassador.)

(Sec. 404) The State Department may also provide support in focus countries to carry out the recommendations on wildlife trafficking contained in the task force's strategic plan related to the development, scaling, and replication of community wildlife conservancies and community conservation programs in those countries to: (1) assist with rural stability and security for people and wildlife, (2) empower and support communities in managing or benefiting from their wildlife resources in a long-term biologically viable manner, and (3) reduce the threat of poaching and trafficking.

#### TITLE V--OTHER ACTIONS RELATING TO WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS

(Sec. 501) The State Department is included in the certification process under the Pelly Amendment to the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967. (The Pelly Amendment authorizes the President to embargo wildlife products when the Department of Commerce or the Department of the Interior certifies that nationals of a foreign country are engaging in trade or certain actions that diminish the effectiveness of an international agreement for the conservation of endangered or threatened species.) Commerce and Interior shall each report each certification to the President within 15 days after it is made.

(Sec. 502) The bill applies provisions of the federal criminal code concerning money laundering to wildlife trafficking violations of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the African Elephant Conservation Act, and the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994, if the endangered or threatened species of fish or wildlife, products, items, or substances involved in the violation and relevant conduct have a total value of more than \$10,000.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Oct 7, 2016:** Signed by President.
- **Oct 7, 2016:** Became Public Law No: 114-231.
- **Sep 29, 2016:** Presented to President.
- **Sep 21, 2016:** Mr. Royce asked unanimous consent that the House take from the Speaker's table and agree to the Senate amendment. (consideration: CR H5741-5743)
- **Sep 21, 2016:** Resolving differences -- House actions: On motion that the House agree to the Senate amendment Agreed to without objection.(text as House agreed to Senate amendment: CR H5741-5743)
- **Sep 21, 2016:** On motion that the House agree to the Senate amendment Agreed to without objection. (text as House agreed to Senate amendment: CR H5741-5743)
- **Sep 21, 2016:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 19, 2016:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Sep 15, 2016:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S5832-5835; text of measure as reported in Senate: CR S5832-5834)
- **Sep 15, 2016:** The committee substitute withdrawn by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S5834)
- **Sep 15, 2016:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Voice Vote.
- **Sep 15, 2016:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Voice Vote.
- **May 9, 2016:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Reported by Senator Corker with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **May 9, 2016:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 459.
- **Apr 28, 2016:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Nov 3, 2015:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
- **Nov 2, 2015:** Mr. Royce moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Nov 2, 2015:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H7367-7372)
- **Nov 2, 2015:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 2494.
- **Nov 2, 2015:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H7367-7369)
- **Nov 2, 2015:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H7367-7369)
- **Nov 2, 2015:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jun 25, 2015:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jun 25, 2015:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Unanimous Consent.
- **Jun 16, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.
- **Jun 10, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.
- **May 21, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **May 21, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.