

6212 Leafy Street
Las Vegas, NV 89130

November 20, 2014

Brenda Tapia
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Management Authority
Branch of Permits, MS: IA
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041

Re: Federal Register, Notice of Receipt of Applications for Permit,
November 6, 2014
Michael Luzich, PRT-33743B

Dear Ms. Tapia:

I urge you to grant the application of Michael Luzich, PRT-33743B, for a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one black rhinoceros taken from the wild in Namibia pursuant to a hunting permit issued to him by the Namibian government.

The American public overwhelmingly supports the legal hunting of any animal. The fact that the black rhinoceros is an endangered species does not prevent it from being hunted for sport under mitigating circumstances. In this case, the hunting permit was issued by the Namibian government for an old, non-breeding, male black rhinoceros that can no longer contribute to the gene pool. Therefore, in the words of the Section 10(a)(2)(B)(iv) of the Endangered Species Act, "the taking will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild."

Further, the application should be granted because the taking of this animal will enhance or benefit wild populations of the species. Mr. Luzich paid the Namibian government \$200,000 for a permit, which he has filled, to take an old, male, non-breeding black rhinoceros. In death, this particular black rhinoceros has helped to preserve and increase the species' numbers through the generation of \$200,000 for their conservation. Denial of his application will not save any rhino and only discourage the purchase of other permits, which are rarely issued, and thereby adversely affect conservation funding efforts in Namibia.

Sincerely yours,



Gordon H. Warren, Ph.D., J.D.
Conservation Director
Nevada Firearms Coalition