



# The Wildlife Society's Conservation Affairs Network

July 2018, Volume 4, Issue 7

## CAC Activities

***British Columbia Chapter submits letter on species at risk legislation*** – The [British Columbia Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) submitted a [letter](#) to the British Columbia government on June 8, 2018 regarding the development of [species at risk](#) legislation in the province. The Chapter offered their support to, and perspective in, developing this legislation and requested the opportunity to be invited as a stakeholder in future discussions on developing endangered species legislation. CAC Contact: [Tyler Muhly](#)

***Illinois Chapter urges Governor to veto deer feeding bill*** – The [Illinois Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) sent a [letter](#) to Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner on June 18, 2018 urging him to veto [SB2493](#) as it could result in increased risk to the state's wildlife populations by undermining efforts to prevent the spread of diseases. Despite passing both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly, the deer feeding bill isn't law yet and the chief sponsor has filed a motion to reconsider, meaning it could be discussed again during a special session or during the fall veto session in November. CAC Contact: [Scott Meister](#)

***Maine Chapter submits letters on proposed FY2019 budget*** – The [Maine Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) submitted letters [Senator Collins](#), [Senator King](#), [Congresswoman Pingree](#), and [Congressman Poliquin](#) on March 13, 2018. The letters expressed the Chapter's concerns and suggestions regarding the U.S. government's proposed FY2019 budget. CAC Contact: [Rodney Kelshaw](#)

***New Jersey Chapter submits letter on Coastal Barrier Resources System and letter on Coastal Management Program*** – The [New Jersey Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) submitted [comments](#) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on May 22, 2018, recommending the reconsideration of NJ-07P (Little Egg Inlet) as a full System Unit, which is currently mapped as an Otherwise Protected Area (OPA) within the Coastal Barrier Resources System. The Chapter also submitted a [letter](#) to Office of Coastal Management on May 23, 2018. The letter expressed the Chapter's support for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's recommendation to amend the federally-approved New Jersey Coast Management Program to include the Shore Tourism and Ocean Protection from Offshore Oil and Gas Act as a routine program change to the [Federal Regulation 15 C.F.R. 923.80-923.84](#). CAC Contact: [Lisa Clark](#)

***North Dakota Chapter submits letter on proposed Foxtail Wind Project*** – The [North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) submitted a [letter](#) to the North Dakota Public Service

Commission on November 14, 2017 on the proposed Foxtail Wind Project in Dickey County, PU-17-284. While the Chapter is generally supportive of the wind industry as a renewable energy source that can be produced locally, they emphasized that scientific evidence indicates that wind facilities have detrimental impacts to wildlife and the Chapter therefore is most supportive of wind facilities that are placed in habitats of limited conservation value to wildlife, such as cropland in predominantly agricultural landscapes. *CAC Contact:* [Rick Warhurst](#)

***South Dakota Chapter submits comments on Stony Butte Project Area and Crocker Wind Farm Draft Environmental Assessment*** – The [South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) submitted [comments](#) to the Fort Pierre Ranger District on February 5, 2018 on the Stony Butte Project Draft Decision Notice and FONSI. While the Chapter did not submit formal objections, they did provide input on the Stony Butte Project Area on Fort Pierre National Grassland. The comments also referenced The Wildlife Society’s position statement on [Livestock Grazing on Rangelands in the Western United States](#). The Chapter also submitted [comments](#) to the Waubay NWR Complex on May 8, 2018. The letter highlighted the Chapter’s concerns regarding the actions proposed – and not proposed – within the document, particularly as related to native grassland habitats, waterfowl, and other grassland-nesting birds, eagles, and bats. *CAC Contact:* [Mark Norton](#)

***Chapter, Section Letters on Recovering America’s Wildlife Act*** – The [Virginia Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#) sent a [letter](#) to the state’s congressional delegation requesting co-sponsorship of the [Recovering America’s Wildlife Act](#). The [Central Mountains and Plains Section of The Wildlife Society](#) also sent along a [letter](#) of support with a request for co-sponsorship to the congressional delegation in their region. In addition, CMPS sent a “[Thank You](#)” to representatives from in their region that had already indicated their support for the legislation. If your organization unit is interested in sending correspondence to your congressional delegation, check out TWS’ [Dropbox folder](#) and the [Alliance for America’s Fish and Wildlife’s Google Drive](#) for templates and other materials. TWS staff are available to help organization units find the correct congressional contacts for distribution of letters. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

***TWS co-hosts briefing on America’s Wildlife Crisis*** – TWS, American Fisheries Society, and National Wildlife Federation all took part in a [briefing](#) in support of the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act last week that focused on the findings of the recently released [Reversing America’s Wildlife Crisis](#) report. The briefing brought together Congressional staffers that have yet to cosponsor the legislation in the hopes of providing them with the necessary information to support the bill. You can check out a recording of the briefing [here](#). The legislation has now reached [72 cosponsors](#) in the House. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

***TWS signs onto refuge expansion letter*** – TWS and other members of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners Coalition have sent a letter in support of the recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service [proposal](#) to create and expand hunting and fishing opportunities at 30 national wildlife refuges. To see a rundown of the changes occurring at each refuge, check out DOI's [press release](#) on the subject. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

## Federal Updates

***Farm Bill moves towards conference committee*** – The House successfully passed their version 2018 Farm Bill after their [first vote in late May](#) ended with the legislation failing due in large part to members withholding support in order to extract a vote on immigration legislation. The new vote fell largely on partisan lines, with 20 Republicans voting against it and no Democrats voting for it. The Senate passed their version of the Farm Bill on June 28, 2018, with a strongly bipartisan vote of 86-11. The effort will now move to [conference committee](#) to work out the differences between the two bills.

***Senate Appropriations Committee passes FY2019 Interior spending package*** – The Senate Appropriations Committee moved the FY2019 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies [spending package](#) to the Senate floor for an eventual vote. The full committee markup session resulted in the adoption of only one amendment that directs the Interior Department and Forest Service to maintain updated five-year deferred maintenance plans. This follows the House Appropriations Committee, which passed their Interior appropriations bill [in mid-June](#). Significant differences exist between the two pieces of legislation. A conference committee will be assembled to resolve differences if the [House](#) and [Senate](#) versions pass both chambers. *Staff Contact:* [Caroline Murphy](#)

***RAWA cosponsor count continues to grow*** – The Recovering America's Wildlife Act has reached 72 cosponsors in the U.S. House of Representatives. See a [list of cosponsors](#) added in the last month below:

Rep. Reichert, David (R-WA)  
Rep. Ryan, Tim (D-OH)  
Rep. Napolitano, Grace (D-CA)  
Rep. Matsui, Doris (D-CA)  
Rep. Norcross, Donald (D-NJ)  
Rep. Sessions, Pete (R-TX)  
Rep. Cuellar, Henry (D-TX)  
Rep. Granger, Kay (R-TX)  
Rep. Simpson, Michael (R-ID)  
Rep. Donovan, Daniel (R-NY)  
Rep. Pocan, Mark (D-WI)  
Rep. Quigley, Mike (D-IL)

## **Member and Organization Unit Input Opportunities**

*NEPA implementation guidelines from CEQ – public comments due July 20* – The Council on Environmental Quality is considering updating their regulations governing the procedural provisions of the [National Environmental Policy Act](#). CEQ is seeking public input on potential revisions that could help make NEPA processes more efficient and effective. Read more and submit comments via the [Federal Register](#). *Staff Contact: [Caroline Murphy](#)*

*Opportunity to sign-on to article regarding potential impacts of US-Mexico border wall on biodiversity* – Scientists and members of the general public that support wildlife are encouraged to sign on to an [article](#) currently in press with *BioScience* regarding concerns about the potential impacts of a US-Mexico border wall on biodiversity. Read the article, view a current list of signatories, and consider signing-on yourself via [this link](#).

## **Request for Submissions**

Do you need assistance with a wildlife conservation policy issue? Does your CAC have a success story to tell? Is a new partnership developing at your organization unit? Send it in! Let the CAN hear about it and help you in your work. *Staff Contact: [Mariah Simmons](#)*

## **CAC Contact Information**

*Update TWS HQ on Conservation Affairs Committee Point of Contacts* – As your Sections and Chapters have new elections and appointments of officers, board members, and other organization unit volunteers, be sure to update TWS staff of your new CAC Chairs. Email Mariah Simmons at [MSimmons@wildlife.org](mailto:MSimmons@wildlife.org) with the new contact information to ensure continuity of communications in the Network.