

Archery Trade Association * Bear Trust International * Boone & Crockett Club * Bowhunting Preservation Alliance * Catch-A-Dream Foundation * Conservation Force * Dallas Safari Club * Delta Waterfowl * Ducks Unlimited * Izaak Walton League of America * National Wild Turkey Federation * North American Grouse Partnership * Masters of the Foxhounds Association * Mississippi River Trust * Mule Deer Foundation * North American Bear Foundation * Pheasants Forever * Pope and Young Club * Quail Forever * Quality Deer Management * Ruffed Grouse Society * The Conservation Fund * The Wildlife Society * Whitetails Unlimited * Wildlife Habitat Council * Wildlife Management Institute * Wildlife Mississippi * Wild Sheep Foundation

April 10, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Chairwoman
Senate Environment & Public Works Committee
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Vitter, Ranking Republican
Senate Environment & Public Works Committee
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Doc Hastings, Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio, Ranking Democrat
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Boxer, Chairman Hastings, Senator Vitter and Congressman DeFazio:

We write representing millions of hunter conservationists, wildlife conservationists, and wildlife scientists to support the vital need to increase the price of the Federal Duck Stamp from its current price of \$15 to \$25. The Duck Stamp was enacted in 1934 during the worst depression and drought the United States has ever known by a group of dedicated waterfowl hunters who stepped forward and asked to pay a user fee dedicated to conserving wetland habitat. In the program's 80th year, the buying power of the Duck Stamp has unfortunately never been lower.

Since its inception, over 6 million acres of waterfowl habitat have been conserved through the revenues of Duck Stamp sales. Approximately \$0.98 of every \$1.00 of Duck Stamp receipts is spent on habitat conservation of wetlands. These habitats not only benefit waterfowl and other wildlife but also provide flood attenuation, water filtration and buffering of storm surges for our citizens.

The price of the Duck Stamp has not been raised since 1991, while the cost of land has tripled. Wildlife habitat needs have continued to increase and the stamp has lost 40 percent of its value. The cost of electricity, eggs and gas have increased due to market forces and now it's time we do our part and meet the market by increasing the price of the Duck Stamp. In order for us to pass down our hunting heritage from generation to generation and sustain a vital and viable resource for wildlife and people, we must increase the price of the Duck Stamp this year.

We pledge our commitment and support to work with you to enact an increase to the Federal Duck Stamp to \$25 in this Congress.

Thank you for your attention to our request.

CC: Full U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives