

**American Fisheries Society | American Fly Fishing Trade Association | American Sportfishing Association
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies | B.A.S.S. | Berkley Conservation Institute
Boone and Crockett Club | Campfire Club of America | Catch-A-Dream Foundation
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation | Delta Waterfowl Foundation | Ducks Unlimited
Izaak Walton League of America | Master of Fox Hounds Association | Mississippi River Trust
Mule Deer Foundation | National Shooting Sports Foundation | National Wildlife Federation
North American Grouse Partnership | Pheasants Forever | Quail Forever
Quality Deer Management Association | Ruffed Grouse Society | The Nature Conservancy
The Wildlife Society | Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership | Trout Unlimited
Wild Sheep Foundation | Wildlife Forever | Wildlife Management Institute**

June 17, 2013

Dear Representative:

The undersigned organizations of sportsmen and women, other conservationists, and wildlife professionals representing millions of members from all 50 states, applaud the efforts of the House Committee on Agriculture for reporting out a bipartisan five year farm bill. We look forward to working with the House of Representatives in the days to come to make sure that this critical legislation is passed by the entire U.S. House of Representatives.

Sportsmen and woman play an integral role in the effective management of fish and wildlife populations and their habitats. In addition, outdoor recreation contributes billions of dollars to the U.S. economy every year. In 2011 alone, American hunter's spent \$38.3 billion and anglers spent \$61.7 billion.

As such, in order to maintain and strengthen outdoor recreational opportunities, we encourage you to support the Thompson-Fortenberry Crop Insurance Accountability Amendment to the farm bill. American farmers and ranchers need a strong safety net protecting them from hazards and risks beyond their own control, and the American public, in particular sportsmen, need abundant, healthy habitats to pursue their passions. These same habitats also provide public values such as clean water to all Americans. The Thompson-Fortenberry amendment accomplishes that by re-coupling crop insurance with conservation compliance. Almost identical to language in the Senate passed farm bill, the Thompson-Fortenberry Amendment is widely supported by most major agriculture insurance, commodity and farm groups in addition to wildlife conservation organizations.

The "Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management (FARRM) Act of 2013 (H.R. 1947) also achieves critical reforms in agricultural policy including the repeal or consolidation of more than 100 programs administered by the USDA, and by saving taxpayers \$40 billion. It helps our nation meet its food, fuel and fiber needs, as well as improves and strengthens our economy by creating jobs. With the adoption of the Thompson-Fortenberry Amendment, it will also strengthen and protect our hunting and fishing heritage.

We stand committed in our strong support for a five year farm bill and the adoption of the Thompson-Fortenberry Amendment. Our agricultural economy and outdoor heritage stand to lose substantially if we do not pass a five-year farm bill this year.

Thank you for your attention to this vital conservation initiative, and we respectfully urge your support of the Thompson-Fortenberry amendment, and your vote for passage of FARRM.