

Archery Trade Association * Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies * Bear Trust International * Boone & Crockett Club * Congressional Sportsmen Foundation * Conservation Force * Delta Waterfowl Foundation * International Hunter Education Association * Izaak Walton League of America * Ducks Unlimited * Mule Deer Foundation * National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc. * North American Bear Foundation * North American Grouse Partnership * Pheasants Forever * Pope and Young Club * Quail Forever * Quality Deer Management Association * Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership * Whitetails Unlimited * Wildlife Management Institute, Inc. * Wildlife Forever * Wildlife Society

May 27, 2010

David Obey, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Room H-218, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Jerry Lewis, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Lewis:

The organizations listed above from the American Wildlife Conservation Partners represent millions of sportsmen conservationists, wildlife scientists, and others that have a vital interest in gulf coast wetlands and fish and wildlife conservation. We write to offer our support for the amendment to add \$85 million in additional supplemental funding that's being requested by Representatives John Dingell, Lois Capps, Mike Thompson, and Charlie Melancon as an addition to the President's Deepwater Horizon oil spill legislative package. This funding should go to assist the U.S Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and state fish and wildlife agencies with their efforts to protect wetlands habitat in the gulf coast marshes being impacted by the oil spill.

Oil from the spill in the Gulf of Mexico is now ashore, and is currently moving into wetlands that support millions of waterfowl, shorebirds and other wildlife. These resources provided by these wetlands are also vital to the livelihoods of many citizens in the region. Impacts to the region are predicted to be extreme and will be felt across our nation.

While we fully expect the Administration to pursue full compensation from the responsible parties for clean-up costs, work must begin right now in order to mitigate many of the damages currently being caused to the wetlands and wildlife in the Gulf Coast, and funds from those responsible parties have not yet begun to flow.

Thank you for considering our request. If you or your staff have any questions please contact Barton James with Ducks Unlimited at (202) 347-1530 or bjames@ducks.org.