

December 15, 2010

Senator Debbie Stabenow
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow,

The Agriculture and Wildlife Working Group (AWWG) was formed by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership in 2005 to provide policy recommendations to Congress and the Administration on effective ways to develop conservation programs in the 2008 Farm Bill, with a focus on programs that assist farmers and landowners in running economically sustainable operations and conserving and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities on private lands. We are made up of representatives from the nation's leading sportsman and conservation organizations, and together have millions of members spread through all 50 states.

We write to congratulate you on your Chairmanship of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, and to offer our expertise and assistance in your work on agriculture issues, particularly with respect to development of the 2012 Farm Bill. With a difficult budget environment confronting the 2012 Farm Bill, securing adequate funding for critical programs like the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) will be crucial to maintaining the progress in conservation of the last Farm Bill.

Access to public and private lands is becoming increasingly difficult for sportsmen to obtain, and we strongly believe the VPA-HIP, included in the 2008 Farm Bill, needs reauthorization and adequate funding. In states like Michigan with extensive private lands, which received over \$450,000 during the first round of grants awarded through VPA-HIP, this program is critical for sportsmen, landowners, and rural economic development.

With your strong record of conservation and working on behalf of landowners and farmers, we're pleased that you will be leading the Agriculture Committee in its efforts to write the 2012 farm bill, and we look forward to working with you.

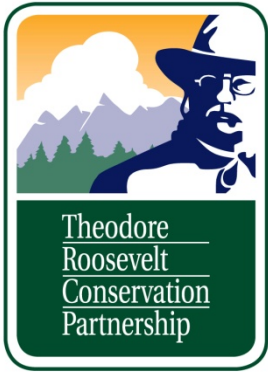
Sincerely,

Jennifer Mock Schaeffer
Agriculture Conservation Policy Analyst
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Chair, Agriculture and Wildlife Working Group

(con'd on page 2)

His Vision
~
Our Mission

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His Vision

~

Our Mission

Brad Redlin
Director, Agricultural Program
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Dave Nomsen
Vice President of Government Affairs
Pheasants Forever

Dave Howell
Director of Agricultural and Wildlife Services
Quail Unlimited

Tom Franklin
Director of Policy and Government Relations
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