March 22, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop
The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Representative Grijalva:

On behalf of the millions of hunters, anglers, shooters and outdoor enthusiasts that our organizations represent, we write to express our strong support of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA).

Since its inception in 1989, NAWCA grants totaling more than $1.48 billion have leveraged $4.34 billion in contributions from partners to protect, restore, enhance and manage habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife. For each federal dollar, one partner dollar must be matched and on average each federal dollar is tripled by partners at the state and local levels, making this program extremely efficient.

NAWCA has produced economic and environmental benefits while conserving America’s fish and wildlife resources. More than 5,600 conservation partners from small landowners to large corporations have teamed up on 2,644 NAWCA projects to positively affect over 33.4 million acres of habitat. Through the history of the program, NAWCA projects have been implemented in all 50 states. In addition to protecting wildlife habitat, this program improves water quality and generates local revenue by increasing tourism through enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities.

Due to NAWCA’s wide range of benefits, Congress has consistently shown strong bipartisan support and the program has been included in every Presidential budget request since the program’s beginning, which is why we respectfully ask for your support of robust funding for NAWCA through the appropriations process. Specifically, we ask you to join Representatives Young, Thompson, LaMalfa, and Lowenthal in signing onto the FY2018 Dear Colleague letter urging the Appropriations Committee to recognize the importance of future funding for
NAWCA. To sign on please contact Martha Newell (martha.newell@mail.house.gov) in Representative Young’s office or Jennifer Goedke (jennifer.goedke@mail.house.gov) in Representative Thompson’s office.

Sincerely,

Archery Trade Association
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Bear Trust International
Campfire Club of America
Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation
Conservation Force
Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports
Dallas Safari Club
Delta Waterfowl
Ducks Unlimited
Houston Safari Club
Izaak Walton League of America
Mule Deer Foundation
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Wildlife Foundation
National Wildlife Refuge Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
Orion The Hunter's Institute
Pheasants Forever
Professional Outfitters and Guides of America
Quail Forever
Quality Deer Management Association
Ruffed Grouse Society
Shikar Safari Club International
Texas Wildlife Association
The Conservation Fund
The Wildlife Society
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Whitetails Unlimited
Wild Sheep Foundation
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute
Wildlife Mississippi

CC: Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke
    U.S. Fish & Wildlife Acting Director Jim Kurth
    Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen, House Appropriations Committee
    Ranking Member Nita Lowey, House Appropriations Committee
    Full House Committee on Appropriations
    Full House Committee on Natural Resources