

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

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,

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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