

American Woodcock Society * Archery Trade Association
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies * Boone and Crockett Club
Campfire Club of America * Catch-A-Dream Foundation
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation * Delta Waterfowl * Ducks Unlimited
Houston Safari Club * Izaak Walton League of America
Masters of Foxhounds Association of America * Mule Deer Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation * National Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Refuge Association * North American Grouse Partnership * Pheasants Forever
Professional Outfitters and Guides of America * Quail Forever
Quality Deer Management Association * Ruffed Grouse Society * 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 20, 2018

The Honorable Thad Cochran
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
U.S. Senate
Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
The Honorable Nita Lowey
U.S. House of Representatives
Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cochran, Senator Leahy, Chairman Frelinghuysen and Representative Lowey:

On behalf of the millions of hunters, anglers, shooters, natural resource professionals and outdoor enthusiasts that our organizations represent, we write to express our strong support of funding for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) in FY2019.

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 also 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. This program also creates on average, nearly 7,500 new jobs annually, generating more than \$200 million in worker earnings each year.

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 strong support of robust funding for NAWCA through the appropriations process.

Sincerely,

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CC: Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Acting Director Greg Sheehan
Chairman John Barrasso, Senate Environment and Public Works
Ranking Member Tom Carper, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
Chairman Rob Bishop, House Committee on Natural Resources
Ranking Member Raul Grijalva, House Committee on Natural Resources
Full House Committee on Appropriations

Full Senate Committee on Appropriations