

January 7, 2020

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment & Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thomas Carper  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Environment & Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

The undersigned organizations, representing America's hunters, anglers, related businesses, wildlife professionals, and other conservationists, write to express thanks for your leadership in the introduction and prompt committee consideration of S. 3051, America's Conservation Enhancement Act.

S. 3051 includes an array of priority conservation provisions and its strongly bipartisan passage by the Environment and Public Works Committee represents an important step forward in addressing growing challenges to species and habitat health. Specifically, these include:

- Reauthorization of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) at \$60M annually through Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. Leveraging private matches to federal funds at a rate of 3:1, NAWCA has improved over 30 million acres of wetlands since its enactment, making it one of our nation's most effective voluntary conservation programs.
- Establishment of a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service-led task force to address the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). CWD has thus far been detected in 26 states. Ensuring that states have a coordinated plan to research, surveil and manage the spread of the disease is critical to containment.
- Codification of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP). Since 2006, the NFHP has overseen over 840 projects to benefit fish habitat and populations. Codifying the program will serve to ensure future funding for the NFHP.
- Modernization of the Pittman-Robertson (PR) Fund. S. 3051 would amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to allow states greater flexibility in the use of funds to recruit and retain sportsmen and women. The American model of conservation is dependent upon a strong population of hunters and anglers. It is thereby critical that states are afforded the ability to utilize trust fund dollars to recruit, reactivate, and retain hunters.
- Reauthorization of the Chesapeake Bay Program at \$90M through FY2025, as well as authorization and funding to carry out recommendations put forth in the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint.
- Authorization and \$15M in annual funding to support coordinated research and monitoring of binational fisheries within the Great Lakes Basin through FY2025.

Passage of America's Conservation Enhancement Act will not only have wide-ranging ecological impacts but will facilitate outdoor recreation on behalf of millions of Americans, strengthening conservation funding streams for years to come. We look forward to working with you to bring this important legislation to passage in the coming months.

Thank you for your continued commitment to conservation.

Sincerely,

American Fisheries Society  
American Sportfishing Association  
American Woodcock Society  
Archery Trade Association  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers  
Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.)  
California Waterfowl Association  
Campfire Club of America  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
The Conservation Fund  
Dallas Safari Club  
Delta Waterfowl Foundation  
Ducks Unlimited  
Fly Fishers International  
Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation  
Houston Safari Club  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Masters of Foxhounds Foundation  
National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative  
National Deer Alliance  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
North American Falconers Association  
North American Grouse Partnership  
Orion: The Hunter's Institute  
Pheasants Forever  
Pope & Young Club  
Professional Outfitters and Guides of America  
Public Lands Foundation  
Quail Forever  
Quality Deer Management Association  
Ruffed Grouse Society

Safari Club International  
The Wildlife Society  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Trout Unlimited  
Whitetails Unlimited  
Wildlife Forever  
Wildlife Management Institute  
Wildlife Mississippi