

* American Woodcock Society * Archery Trade Association * Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies * Boone and Crockett Club * California Waterfowl Association * Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation * Conservation Force * Delta Waterfowl Foundation * Ducks Unlimited * Houston Safari Club * Izaak Walton League of America * National Wild Turkey Federation * National Wildlife Federation * National Wildlife Refuge Association * National Shooting Sports Foundation * North American Grouse Partnership * Orion – The Hunter's Institute * Pheasants Forever, Inc. * Quail Forever * Quality Deer Management Association * Ruffed Grouse Society * The Conservation Fund * Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership * Whitetails Unlimited * Wildlife Forever * Wildlife Management Institute * Wildlife Mississippi *

September 24, 2019

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

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Bishop:

On behalf of the millions of hunters, anglers, shooters and outdoor enthusiasts that our organizations represent, we write to express our strong support of HR 925, reauthorization of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA).

Since its inception in 1989, NAWCA grants totaling more than \$1.73 billion have leveraged \$3.57 billion in contributions from partners to voluntarily 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 6,200 conservation partners from small landowners to large corporations have teamed up on 2,950 NAWCA projects to positively affect over 30 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.

NAWCA has proven effective far beyond the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. Many wildlife species, as well as people, benefit tremendously from healthy wetland systems that are the result of voluntary, on-the-ground conservation made possible by the act. It is proven that wetlands help prevent flooding, reduce the severity of storm surges, and mitigate the damaging effects of soil erosion. Wetlands also improve water quality by working with underground aquifers to filter out pollutants.

We respectfully ask for your support of HR 925 that would reauthorize the program for \$60 million a year through fiscal year 2024. Representatives Mike Thompson (CA) and Rob Wittman (VA) are the lead

sponsors of the bill and serve as the House representatives on the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC) who ensure NAWCA dollars are invested wisely in habitat projects that return the greatest benefits to waterfowl, other wetland dependent species, and the American taxpayer.

We strongly encourage all members of the House Committee on Natural Resources to support and pass HR 925 out of committee and onto the floor for final passage.

Sincerely,

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