

**September 23, 2019**

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Bishop:

On behalf of the recreational fishing and boating community, the undersigned organizations are writing in strong support of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act (H.R. 1747) and would like to thank you for scheduling the bill for both a hearing and markup.

Recreational fishing is one of America's most popular pastimes with 49 million anglers taking to the water each year. The sport not only activates more Americans than golf and tennis combined, but annually contributes \$125 billion to the economy and supports more than 800,000 jobs. However, recreational fishing can only remain America's favorite pastime if we continue to conserve and restore the very habitats that support our iconic fisheries.

The National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act codifies the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, a national framework developed jointly by the states, federal agencies, business and the angling and conservation community that lays out a clear set of national goals and objectives for conserving, restoring and enhancing fish and fish habitats on a national scale. The program has already proved extremely effective, supporting 840 projects in 50 states, but must be codified by Congress to achieve its full potential.

This broadly supported, bipartisan bill will not only conserve habitat and increase recreational angling opportunities to the benefit of the angling community and Americans but will also benefit the countless communities across the nation that depend upon the significant economic impact provided by anglers.

Thank you again for scheduling this bill for a markup and for all that you do to support public access and natural resource conservation.

Sincerely,

American Fisheries Society  
American Sportfishing Association  
Angler Action Foundation  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.)  
BoatUS  
Coastal Conservation Association  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
The Nature Conservancy

Fishing League Worldwide  
Fly Fishers International  
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
National Professional Anglers Association  
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association  
The Billfish Foundation  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Trout Unlimited  
Wild Oceans

CC: The Honorable Robert J. Wittman  
The Honorable Marc D. Veasey