



TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE
a natural investment

October 29, 2007

The Honorable Joseph Lieberman
Chairman
Private Sector and Consumer Solutions
to Global Warming and Wildlife Subcommittee
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Warner
Ranking Member
Private Sector and Consumer Solutions
to Global Warming and Wildlife Subcommittee
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Lieberman and Senator Warner:

On behalf of the Teaming with Wildlife Coalition, I am writing to express support and appreciation for your efforts to secure dedicated funding for fish and wildlife adaptation to global warming as part of your climate legislation.

Funding from America's sportsmen and women has helped state fish and wildlife agencies manage fish and wildlife in a changing landscape for more than a century. The last several years of federal appropriations to conserve species of greatest conservation need through the State Wildlife Grants program have dramatically enhanced efforts to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered. At the same time, the landscape-level effects of climate change are placing enormous new stresses on fish and wildlife. Alteration of habitat, disruption to migratory patterns, changes in predator-prey interactions, wildlife diseases and the spread of invasive species represent a few of the ways in which an altered climate will disrupt fish and wildlife. The pressures of climate change only increase the need for sustained, preventive actions to conserve and manage fish and wildlife and their habitat.

The guaranteed funding your legislation provides to every state and territory through the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program will greatly enhance wildlife managers' ability to conserve wildlife in the face of global warming. As a requirement of the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program and State Wildlife Grants Program, every state and territory has already completed a wildlife action plan. The wildlife action plans assess the status of each state's wildlife and habitats and outline the actions that are needed to keep fish and wildlife from becoming endangered. The wildlife action plans, along with other landscape-scale conservation initiatives under development, provide a strategic platform for promptly delivering funding for on-the-ground projects to help fish and wildlife react to the challenge of climate change.

Thank you for recognizing fish and wildlife conservation funding as an indispensable component of climate change legislation. We look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure that provisions maximizing benefits for fish and wildlife resources remain a part of the final package.

Sincerely,

Noel Holcomb
Director, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Chairman, Teaming with Wildlife National Steering Committee

Teaming with Wildlife

A coalition of more than 5,000 groups working together to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered.

c/o Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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