



The voice of fish and wildlife agencies

Hall of the States
444 North Capitol Street, NW
Suite 725 • Washington, D.C. 20001
Phone: 202-624-7890
Fax: 202-624-7891
E-mail: info@fishwildlife.org
www.fishwildlife.org

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

Dear Senator Lieberman:

On behalf of America's state fish and wildlife agencies I want to thank you for including provisions in the "Climate Stewardship and Innovation Act of 2007" (S.280) to allocate a portion of the funds from auctioned emissions allowances to fish and wildlife adaptation activities through the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program.

Pervasive impacts from climate change will have landscape-level effects on fish and wildlife well into the future. Alteration of habitat, disruption to migratory patterns, changes in predator-prey interactions, and the spread of invasive species and wildlife diseases represent a few of the ways in which an altered climate will disrupt fish and wildlife populations. The pressures of climate change only increase the need for proactive conservation and management of fish and wildlife and their habitat in order to ensure their continued survival. Funding for fish and wildlife conservation is an essential element of any overall adaptation assistance package. When fish and wildlife are pushed to the brink, other conflicts over scarce resources are frequently exacerbated. Dedicating a portion of adaptation assistance for practical, preventive actions to conserve fish and wildlife resources can help ameliorate larger conflicts.

We share your belief that the most effective way to moderate the effects of climate change on fish and wildlife is by dedicating funds from the auction of emission allowances to the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program (WCRP). Established by Congress in 2000, the WCRP operates as a sub-account of the highly successful Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act. The program provides funding to every state and territory to support on-the-ground programs and projects aimed at keeping wildlife from becoming endangered. Because it is based in the well-established structure of the existing state-federal partnership in wildlife conservation, the WCRP provides the most effective way to put resources on the ground and begin immediately addressing critical wildlife and habitat conservation needs.

As a requirement of the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program and the related State Wildlife Grants program, every state and territory recently completed a wildlife action plan (known technically as a "comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy").

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. These plans provide a clear roadmap for putting funding on the ground to address conservation needs as fish and wildlife react to the challenge of climate change.

Adaptation assistance that helps address the needs of fish and wildlife is an essential national natural resource policy objective as well as an indispensable component of any overall package. Thank you for recognizing these needs in your bill. We look forward to working with you to ensure that this funding is robust enough to meet the needs of fish and wildlife in our changing climate.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Edward Parker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Edward Parker
President, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
& *Director*, Bureau of Natural Resources, Connecticut Dept of Environmental Protection