

Keeping you updated on  
The Conservation & Reinvestment Act

# CARA Comments

A newsletter for Georgia's Teaming with Wildlife Coalition

---

Summer 2000 - Volume 6 August 29, 2000

Georgia DNR/WRD

---

## Conservation & Reinvestment Act Update

### TIME IS VERY SHORT - WRITE MORE LETTERS !

There's just a few days left until Congress comes back and they can start acting on CARA again!! As you know, their time in session is very short, and you may here from the opposition that CARA is doomed due to this time constraint. We know better! We know that if these Senators get the pressure from their constituents, they will work towards getting CARA through the Senate this year. IF WE INCREASE EFFORTS NOW, WE CAN ENSURE THAT CARA REACHES THE FLOOR FOR A VOTE BEFORE THE OCTOBER 6 ADJOURNMENT DEADLINE.

Provided in this newsletter is information on a coalition-wide sign-on letter for all 50 states, updates contact information for newly appointed Senator Zell Miller (he has been moved from the first address we were given, the new address is enclosed), and a side-by-side comparison of the House and Senate versions of CARA.

The most important thing you can do after reading this newsletter is to write letters to Zell Miller and Max Cleland. I have included an updated template letter with this mailing (or attached in e-mail).

We have one more month to push, write, call, fax, or e-mail. The Senate is already backlogged, they must hear some noise if we expect to get this bill passed this year. We must provide the motivation for them to vote CARA put this year. Remember, the opposition is working just as hard as us (maybe harder) to kill this. HELP CARA PASS THIS YEAR!!!! Read on.....

---

### CARA COALITION SIGN-ON LETTERS

As part of the final push to get CARA through the Senate and enacted this year, the national CARA coalition is coordinating group sign-on letters in all 50 states so that Senators know how popular CARA is in their state (although I'm sure ours will already know because of the hundreds of letters you are writing-it's better to be safe!). The letter is very general and tries and tries to capture all of the major constituencies that will benefit from the passage of CARA. THE GOAL NOW IS TO GET AS MANY GROUPS ON THIS LETTER AS POSSIBLE!

Each letter will include groups from our state only and we would really like 200 signatures per letter. The key is diversity: conservation, recreation groups, businesses, state and locally elected government officials, and state and local agencies. So that means we need you to help us disseminate this letter to other groups! It needs to be circulated to any and all groups that you think would like to sign on!

**IF YOU WISH TO SIGN-ON TO THIS GROUP LETTER PLEASE CONTACT:**

MICHELLE ALDENDERFER (770 918-6400)- Georgia DNR

[Michelle.Aldenderfer@mail.dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:Michelle.Aldenderfer@mail.dnr.state.ga.us)

or

MIKE ROLLINS (912 764-5637) Georgia Recreation & Parks Assoc.

[mrollins1rec@hotmail.com](mailto:mrollins1rec@hotmail.com)

## CARA House version

### Georgia Benefits

**Coastal Impact Assistance** \$6.7 million  
Title I creates a revenue sharing and coastal conservation fund for coastal states and eligible local governments to mitigate the various impacts of OCS activities and provide funds for the conservation of our coastal ecosystems. These funds will support sustainable development of nonrenewable resources without providing incentives for new oil and gas development.

**Land & Water Conservation Fund** \$15.9 million  
Title II guarantees stable and annual funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at its authorized \$900 million level. This dedicated funding would provide for both the state and federal programs included in the LWCF, while protecting the rights of private property owners.

**Wildlife Conservation Fund** \$8.8 million  
Title III, through the successful program of Pittman-Robertson, reinvests the development of nonrenewable resources into a renewable resource of wildlife conservation and education. This new source of funding will be the first permanent funding source for Georgia nongame wildlife.

**Urban Park & Recreation Recovery** \$1.9 million  
Title IV provides matching grants to local governments to rehabilitate recreation areas and facilities and provides for the development of improved recreation programs, sites and facilities.

**Historic Preservation Fund** \$2.4 million  
Title V provides funding for the state-level programs of the Historic Preservation Act.

**Federal & Indians Land Restoration** \$1.7 million  
Title VI provides funding for a coordinated program on federal and Indian lands to restore degraded lands, protect resources that are threatened with degradation, and protect public health and safety.

**Conservation Easements & Species Recovery** \$1.3 million  
Title VII provides annual and dedicated funding for conservation easements and funding for landowner incentives to aid in the recovery of endangered and threatened species.

#### Governor Miller's new contact information:

Senator Zell Miller  
818A Hart Senate Office Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202 228-2090  
Fax: 202 224-7272

\* Miller's environmental aide's name is Mary Lee Sell

## CARA Senate version

### Georgia benefits

(Dollar amounts are not definite)

**Coastal Impact Assistance** \$6.7 million  
This title creates a revenue sharing and coastal conservation fund for coastal states and eligible local governments to mitigate the various impacts of OCS activities and provide funds for the conservation of our coastal ecosystems.

**Land & Water Conservation Fund** \$14.6 million  
This title guarantees stable and annual funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at its authorized \$900 million level, while protecting the rights of private property owners.

**Wildlife Conservation & Restoration** \$8 million  
This new source of funding will be the first permanent funding source for nongame wildlife conservation, education and recreation for most of the states.

**Historic Preservation Fund** \$2.5 million  
This title provides funding for the state-level programs of the Historic Preservation Act.

**Federal & Indians Land Restoration** \$1.4 million  
This title provides funding for a coordinated program on Federal and Indian lands to restore degraded lands, protect resources that are threatened with degradation, and protect public health and safety.

**Conservation Easements** \$1.5 million  
This title provides annual and dedicated funding for conservation easements to the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program and the Forest Legacy Program.

**Urban Park & Recreation Recovery** \$1.1 million  
This title provides matching grants to local governments to rehabilitate recreation areas and facilities, provides for the development of improved recreation programs, sites and facilities.

**Urban and Community Forestry Fund** \$1.5 million  
These funds would be used to fund projects to maintain and create natural areas in urban places.

**Rural Development Program and Rural Community Assistance Program** \$1 million  
These funds would go to help rural communities develop economic plans.

**Youth Conservation Corps** \$1 million  
These funds would fund the YCC, which has been underfunded for years.

**Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)** \$2.1 million  
These funds would go to fully fund the PILT program which compensates local governments for property taxes they lose when land within their tax base is publicly held.

**TEMPLATE LETTER: PLEASE PLACE ON YOUR LETTERHEAD AND MAIL**

Senator Max Cleland  
461 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington DC 20510  
and  
Senator Zell Miller  
818A Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-1006

Dear Senator Cleland/Miller:

House bill 701 (H.R. 701), the Conservation & Reinvestment Act of 1999 (CARA) passed a major milestone on July 25 when the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted 13-7 to report this historic conservation legislation to the full Senate for consideration. This landmark legislation was passed in the House on Thursday, May 11 with a vote of 315-102, and would provide the largest infusion of federal conservation funds in history, \$40 billion over the next 15 years, most of which will go to various states and local conservation programs. We know the Senate has many things to accomplish before the October 6 adjournment. **We are asking you to put CARA at the top of the list! This year is the best chance this legislation has of ever passing. We need your help.**

The Conservation & Reinvestment Act (H.R. 701/S.2123) reinvests a portion of the revenues from Federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas development into several different programs. **This legislation is predicted to bring more than \$40 million to Georgia** alone for various programs, including dedicated funding for wildlife conservation, historic preservation, coastal impact assistance, land acquisition, and urban park development. This legislation would greatly expand our efforts in protecting nongame wildlife species and in providing educational and recreational opportunities for our state's citizens.

(THIS PARAGRAPH MAY BE REMOVED AND REPLACED WITH INFORMATION ON HOW CARA WILL BENEFIT YOUR ORGANIZATION)

The strong bipartisan support and ultimate landslide vote in the House certainly makes it clear this legislation is effective and beneficial not just to Georgia citizens, but to the entire country. As you know, there are not many days left in the Congressional session this year. Although I understand the Senate has many issues to address in a short time frame, let me assure you **that the passage of the Conservation & Reinvestment Act is one of the most important and historic things the Senate can do this year.**

The House spent countless days refining this bill and debating it on the floor. Now the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has also spent over 14 hours debating and developing the bill to be presented to the Floor. **I hope you and the remaining Senators will take advantage of this hard work and get this bill to the floor for a vote as soon as possible.**

Thank you for your continued support. The chances of this bill passing during this session are far greater than if we have to start the process over next year. I ask that you help **CARA get signed into law this year.**

Regards,