

American Fisheries Society * American Sportfishing Association * Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
* B.A.S.S. * Bear Trust International * Berkley Conservation Institute * Boone and Crockett Club *
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Dallas Safari Club * Ducks Unlimited * Federation of Fly Fishers * International Game Fish Association *
Izaak Walton League of America * Mule Deer Foundation
National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses * National Wildlife Federation
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association * Orion the Hunter's Institute
Pheasants Forever * Pope and Young Club * Quail Forever * Quail Unlimited
Quality Deer Management Association * Shimano Sport Fisheries Initiative
The Campfire Club of America * The Wildlife Society * Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership *
Trout Unlimited * Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute

May 19, 2008

Dear Senator:

In early June the U.S. Senate is expected to consider S. 2191, the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act. The organizations on the letterhead, representing millions of hunters, anglers and other conservationists, are writing to ask you to support the fish and wildlife conservation funding provisions of this climate change legislation. This carefully-crafted proposal, which enjoys broad support from the hunting and fishing conservation organizations and many others, will help ensure the long-term survival of fish and wildlife by providing important new resources to address the unprecedented impacts that climate change will have on fish, wildlife, and their habitats. Conserving these resources should be a top priority for the nation.

State fish and wildlife agencies, federal natural resources agencies, and non-governmental conservation organizations will be instrumental in implementing conservation strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change on fish and wildlife resources and their habitats. The Lieberman-Warner bill allocates funding for this purpose, which will be delivered through existing programs with track records of success in on the ground conservation.

We particularly appreciate the fact that the legislation provides thirty-five percent of the natural resource conservation funding available to be spent through the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account established under the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration law for comprehensive programs to remediate impacts from climate change to all fish and wildlife species. The state cost share requirement of ten percent will help ensure that states can utilize these funds immediately to implement conservation actions and put needed habitat on the ground. By funding state fish and wildlife agencies in this manner, this legislation will effectively and efficiently support critical conservation initiatives that will enhance the resiliency and sustainability of fish and wildlife and their habitats to climate change.

Federal agencies also will play an important role in assisting fish and wildlife to adapt to the impacts of climate change, and the conservation funding provisions of the Lieberman-Warner bill empower a wide range of important federal programs, including cooperative grant programs, that will benefit game and non-game species of fish and wildlife. Non-governmental conservation organizations will also play a vital role as partners helping to deliver these important federal conservation programs.

In conclusion, our organizations, representing millions of American sportsmen and sportswomen, ask that you strongly support the current version of the fish and wildlife funding provisions of the Lieberman-Warner climate change legislation. The Lieberman-Warner bill not only will help limit the extent of the problem by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, it will provide important new resources to state and federal agencies so that they can undertake the critical conservation work necessary to assist fish and wildlife survive in the coming decades. The future of hunting and fishing in America depends on the ability of conservation agencies to assist fish and wildlife to adapt to a changing climate. Expenditures by Americans on hunting and fishing and the goods and services that support these activities generate \$76 billion in economic benefit annually. Thus, conserving these natural resources will help ensure the continued economic vitality of countless communities and businesses across the nation. The conservation funding provisions of this bill will allow us to meet this enormous and unprecedented challenge presented by climate change.