



July 14, 2017

The Honorable John Barrasso
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso and Senator Cardin:

On behalf of Trout Unlimited and its 300,000 members and supporters, I commend you and your co-sponsors for introducing the S. 1514, The HELP for Wildlife Act of 2017. Your bill includes valuable provisions to conserve fish and wildlife habitat that will sustain outstanding hunting and fishing opportunities in all of your states. We appreciate the strong leadership that you, and the bill's bipartisan co-sponsors, have demonstrated on sportsmen's conservation issues.

The bill includes the reauthorization of some of our nation's most successful conservation programs such as the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). NFWF has been especially valuable to Trout Unlimited for many years, providing funding for some of the Nation's best stream and river restoration projects. For example, in Wyoming, TU partnered with landowners and the State to implement projects throughout the Greybull River drainage, including culvert improvement and riparian restoration projects that restore and reconnect historical habitat for Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

HELP would also reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program. The Chesapeake is one of the Nation's hunting and fishing gems. Damaged by nutrient pollution, the Bay is making a good comeback due to the Chesapeake Bay program and the incredible partnership of state, federal, local, farming and conservation interests. In the Bay's headwaters in West Virginia and Virginia, TU has had good success using Chesapeake Bay and NFWF funds to work with farmers to restore streams, thereby improving fishing in the mountains but also improving water quality in the Bay.

A mission to conserve, protect, & restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

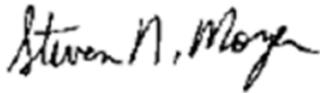
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We are especially pleased that the bill includes the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act, which would encourage fish habitat partnerships nationwide to work with landowners of all types to achieve broad scale fisheries benefits. Nineteen partnerships are already underway, restoring fish habitat from Alaska to Maine, and this bill will ensure that those partnerships will be sustained and enhanced.

The lynchpin to all of these programs is partnership. These programs bring together a broad range of partners to protect and restore thousands of miles and acres of habitat, leverage state, federal and non-profit funding sources as matching dollars, and to assist private landowners with conservation. Together, these habitat programs have amassed years of proven conservation and partnership successes, and this bill will make sure that these successes continue.

Thank you introducing the HELP for Wildlife Act. We look forward to its swift and successful passage.

Sincerely,



Steve Moyer
Vice President for Government Affairs
Trout Unlimited
Arlington, VA



Tasha Sorenson
Wyoming Sportsman Conservation Project
Coordinator
Cheyenne, WY

Cc: Senators Boozman, Klobuchar, Capito, Baldwin, and Crapo.