



Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Inc.
250 Rabbit College Road
Petersburgh, NY 12138

December 16, 2019

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper
Ranking Member
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper:

On behalf of the Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Inc., I am writing to confirm our strong support for the *America's Conservation Enhancement Act* (S. 3051). This legislation is crucial to enhancing conservation programs throughout the United States.

The Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Inc. (NEAFWA) is a quasi-governmental organization representing the interests of state fish and wildlife agencies from Virginia to Maine, along with six eastern Canadian Provinces. As such, we have a strong interest in federal legislation, policies, and programs that have an impact on state fish and wildlife management.

I wish to express gratitude to the sponsors of this bipartisan legislation, along with members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, for advancing this critical bill. NEAFWA is pleased with the underlying premise that conservation is best accomplished through partnerships of federal and state agencies, along with nongovernmental organizations that share our commitment for the enhancement of natural resources, and the enjoyment of those resources by the American public.

Among other key provisions of S. 3051, we are pleased to see the priority the Committee has placed on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). We look forward to implementing the provisions of

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the bill that provides for a CWD Task Force to advance our understanding and management of this disease.

We also applaud the inclusion of several other key initiatives within *America's Conservation Enhancement Act*, including the *Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow's Act*, the *National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act*, and the *North American Wetlands Conservation Act*. These are high priorities for state fish and wildlife agencies, and for our diverse conservation partners.

Finally, we appreciate and support the important provisions that advance the restoration and health of the Chesapeake Bay. The bay is an important nursery for numerous fish species and is a critical economic driver in the entire Mid-Atlantic for the recreational fishing community.

We look forward to a positive consideration of this legislation both in the Committee and the full Senate. I assure you that NEAFWA will do everything within our ability to support the Committee and other elected leaders as this crucial legislation moves forward.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul Johansen
President

Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Inc.

C: Ron Regan, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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