



December 16, 2019

The Honorable John Barrasso, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso, Ranking Member Carper, and members of the Committee:

Trout Unlimited writes to thank you for introducing S. 3051, America's Conservation Enhancement Act, and we urge the Committee to advance it in tomorrow's mark up. This bill includes valuable provisions to conserve fish and wildlife habitat that will sustain outstanding hunting and fishing opportunities across the country. We appreciate the strong leadership demonstrated by Senators Barrasso, Carper and the bill's bipartisan co-sponsors, in advancing 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.

The bill 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 thanks 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 successfully used 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.

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

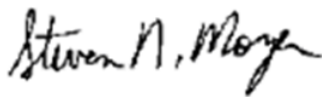
A mission to conserve, protect, & restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

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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.

Again, we thank you for your leadership on the bill, and we urge members to advance S. 3051, America's Conservation Enhancement Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven A. Moyer". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Steve Moyer
Vice President for Government Affairs
Trout Unlimited