

**American Fisheries Society * American Sportfishing Association * Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies * BASS/ESPN * Bear Trust International * Berkeley Conservation Institute * Boone & Crocket Club * Catch-A-Dream Foundation
The Campfire Club of America * Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Conservation Force * Dallas Safari Club * Ducks Unlimited * Federation of Fly Fishers * International Hunter Education Association * The Mule Deer Foundation
National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses * National Trappers Association
National Wildlife Federation * Pheasants Forever * Pope & Young Club * Quail Forever * Quality Deer Management Association * Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership * Trout Unlimited * Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute * The Wildlife Society**

October 18, 2007

Honorable John Warner
United States Senate
Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Joe Lieberman
United States Senate
Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Warner and Lieberman:

The organizations on the letterhead, representing millions of hunters, anglers and other conservationists, very sincerely appreciate your willingness to add a balanced and thoughtful fish and wildlife conservation funding proposal to your climate change legislation. Your carefully-crafted proposal will help ensure the long-term survival of fish and wildlife by providing important new resources through direct spending to address the impacts of climate change.

State fish and wildlife agencies and the federal natural resources agencies will be instrumental in implementing conservation strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change on fish and wildlife resources and their habitats. Funding for these efforts should be delivered through existing programs with track records of success in on the ground conservation, as called for under your proposal. At the state level, the long-standing and successful fish and wildlife restoration programs provide the most appropriate means of delivering many of the needed conservation benefits.

We particularly appreciate the fact that you intend to provide forty percent under direct spending of the natural resource conservation funding available under your legislation to be spent through the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account established under the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act 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, your legislation will effectively and efficiently support critical activities that 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 we applaud your efforts to provide direct

spending resources for a wide range of important federal programs, including implementing cooperative grant programs that benefit fish and wildlife.

In conclusion, our organizations, representing millions of American sportsmen and sportswomen, thank you again for working with us to help address the challenge of climate change by both reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and providing important new resources to assist fish and wildlife survive in the face of this unprecedented challenge. We look forward to working with you and your staff on this very crucial and complex issue as your legislation moves forward.