

American Fisheries Society * American Sportfishing Association * Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies * Berkley Conservation Institute, Pure Fishing * Boone & Crockett Club * Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation * Campfire Club of America * Conservation Force * Dallas Safari Club * Delta Waterfowl Foundation * Ducks Unlimited * Mule Deer Foundation * National Shooting Sports Foundation * National Trappers Association * North American Bear Foundation * North American Grouse Partnership * Northwestern Sportfishing Industry * Pheasants Forever * Quail Forever * Quail Unlimited * Quality Deer Management Association * Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation * Safari Club International * The Conservation Fund * The Nature Conservancy * Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership * Texas Wildlife Association * The Wildlife Society * Trout Unlimited * Whitetails Unlimited * Wildlife Management Institute

Dear Representative:

We, the hunting, fishing and conservation community, are writing you with great urgency to ensure that you understand that various provisions of HR 1 and several amendments to that bill strike directly at America's longstanding tradition of federal support for conservation and management of fish, wildlife and their habitat. Among these are the elimination of funding for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, the elimination of funding for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, significant cuts to Farm Bill Conservation Programs, the drastic reduction or elimination of funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Forest Legacy, the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, and the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, and the elimination of federal funding for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

While we fully acknowledge that conservation programs should shoulder a fair and proportional burden of reductions to the Federal budget as required to address the budget deficit, these provisions of HR 1, in our view, represent a deliberate move away from America's long conservation tradition and, specifically with respect to the interests of the hunting, fishing and outdoor community. We are very disappointed that the Congress would consider these actions without consultation with the hunting, fishing and conservation community. These vital programs with long-standing track records of success are foundational to fish, wildlife and habitat conservation, good for the economy in creating jobs particularly in rural communities, and critical to providing opportunities for America's sportsmen and women.

We urge that before acting on HR 1, you alter the deep cuts cited above to reflect a proportional share of the budget reductions you are seeking. Thank you for your sincere consideration of our views.