

Archery Trade Association * Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies * Bear Trust International * Boone and Crockett Club * Bowhunting Preservation Alliance * Campfire Club of America * Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation * Conservation Force * Delta Waterfowl * Ducks Unlimited * Foundation for North American Wild Sheep * Mule Deer Foundation * National Rifle Association * National Shooting Sports Foundation * National Wild Turkey Federation * North American Bear Foundation * North American Grouse Partnership * Orion The Hunters Institute * Pheasants Forever * Quail Forever * Quail Unlimited * Quality Deer Management Association * Ruffed Grouse Society * Safari Club International * Texas Wildlife Association * The Wildlife Society * Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership * Whitetails Unlimited * Wildlife Forever

July 17, 2007

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Peterson and Ranking Member Goodlatte:

The following organizations offer our support for the conservation policies and programs contained in H.R. 2419, the 2007 Farm Bill. We are all members of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners (AWCP) and collectively we represent millions of our Nations' sportsmen and sportswomen. Farm Bill conservation programs represent the opportunity to properly manage lands for soil, water, and wildlife resources. We appreciate the Committees' long history of support for conservation programs which benefit wildlife, and we are mindful of the challenging budget circumstances under which this bill was developed.

We strongly support the various wildlife-habitat focused programs at the core of the conservation title including the Conservation, Wetlands, and Grasslands (CRP, WRP, GRP) Reserve programs, the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and others. We applaud your efforts to strengthen forestry and forest habitat provisions of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and to authorize the new Regional Watershed Enhancement Program (RWEP). Provisions to authorize a voluntary access

program will be welcomed by sportsmen and sportswomen in addition to farmers and ranchers.

With this in mind, the organizations listed below thank you for a strong starting point toward a comprehensive conservation title as part of the 2007 Farm Bill. We look forward to working closely with you, members of the Committee and staff through the legislative process.

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