

April 6, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

The undersigned organizations representing hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreationists are writing today to express our gratitude for specifically making 501(c)3 non-profit conservation organizations eligible for many of the CARES Act and FFRCA provisions.

As reported by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, outdoor recreation accounted for 2.2% of the GDP in 2017 and contributed \$778 billion in economic impact. Conservation organizations play a critical role in driving this \$778 billion economic engine. The money we raise each year facilitates private investment for state agencies to match federal funding, and cost-share for federal agencies, all for work that provides quality recreational opportunities for the American public. These matching dollars amplify federal investment on the landscape and result in tangible projects supporting thousands of jobs across the country.

The COVID-19 crisis has struck at the worst possible time for our organizations. The months of March through May are the most important fundraising season for our organizations. We estimate we will collectively lose \$100 million in revenue as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. As non-profit organizations, we operate on thin margins and this loss of revenue is a real threat to the viability of our organizations.

Ensuring that our organizations are eligible for the Payment Protection Program and Loan Forgiveness, Emergency Economic Injury Disaster Loan, and the various payroll tax provisions will help our organizations weather the storm and take care of our valuable employees for the coming months. The temporary charitable contribution deduction enhancements will encourage our donors to give and help our organizations recover lost revenue as this country emerges from this crisis.

Thank you for ensuring that 501(c)3 conservation organizations were included in these COVID-19 stimulus bills. As future legislation is developed, we request that you continue to address our unique circumstances by ensuring that we are eligible for future programs.

Sincerely,

American Woodcock Society
Delta Waterfowl
Ducks Unlimited
Mule Deer Foundation

National Wild Turkey Federation
Pheasants Forever
Quail Forever
Quality Deer Management Association
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Ruffed Grouse Society
Wild Sheep Foundation