

July 27, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

We the undersigned are writing to urge Congress to pass meaningful bipartisan legislation to address the impacts of climate change. Our organizations represent millions of hunters, anglers, outdoor enthusiasts, and land stewards who together comprise the centerpiece of a powerful economic engine and have helped to place the United States as the world leader in conservation.

Sportsmen and women, landowners and managers, and outdoor enthusiasts are on the front lines of climate change, often witnessing declines in landscape health and resiliency as well as impacts on our nation's fish and wildlife resources. Shifting climate conditions are leading to more frequent and extreme weather events, catastrophic fires, expansion of invasive species, prolonged drought, disease proliferation, and expanding algal blooms and aquatic dead zones. Changes in fish and wildlife migration patterns, altered breeding seasons, shifts in home ranges, loss of habitat from sea level rise, and even loss of trail and road access due to extreme weather events such as flooding and storm surges are also being witnessed. These changes fundamentally affect our outdoor heritage and the annual \$200 billion hunting and fishing economy and \$778 billion outdoor recreation economy.

We recognize the need to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Our community also believes any national strategy to address climate change must support and incentivize land and water-based solutions that harness the power of our natural systems to a) sequester and store carbon and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions; b) maintain and build climate resiliency – the ability for natural systems to absorb stress and maintain function in the face of external stressors imposed upon them; and c) ensure adaptive solutions such as managing natural systems for climate impacts. We support immediate actions at the federal, state, local and private levels to catalyze these needed solutions.

With an effective land and water-based strategy that leverages market and incentive-based approaches, the United States could mitigate a fifth of its carbon emissions through natural solutions alone. This is equivalent to removing emissions from all cars and trucks on U.S. roads today. Moreover, these actions will strengthen rural economies, benefit fish and wildlife, improve air quality, soil health, water quality, and water quantity, strengthen the outdoor recreation economy, and create more resiliency for land stewards and communities facing the impacts of a changing climate.

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We have attached a more detailed statement on the land and water-based actions that are needed to address climate change. We stand ready to work with you and rural communities across the country to perfect and implement these policies.

Sincerely,

American Fisheries Society  
American Fly Fishing Trade Association  
America Sportfishing Association  
American Woodcock Society  
Angler Action Foundation  
Archery Trade Association  
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers  
Bonefish & Tarpon Trust  
California Waterfowl  
Captains for Clean Water  
Fly Fishers International  
Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation  
International Game Fish Association  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Land Trust Alliance  
National Alliance of Forest Owners  
National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative  
National Deer Alliance  
National Marine Manufacturing Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Wildlife Refuge Association  
New York State Conservation Council  
North American Falconers Association  
North American Grouse Partnership  
Outdoor Industry Association  
Pheasants Forever  
Pope & Young Club  
Quail Forever  
Quality Deer Management Association  
Ruffed Grouse Society  
Student Conservation Association  
The Conservation Fund  
The Trust for Public Land  
The Wildlife Society  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
Trout Unlimited  
Western Landowners Alliance  
Whitetails Unlimited  
Wild Salmon Center

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Wildlife Management Institute  
Wildlife Mississippi

cc:

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Chairman, House Energy & Commerce Committee  
The Honorable Greg Walden, Ranking Member, House Energy & Commerce Committee  
The Honorable Raúl Grijalva, Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee  
The Honorable Rob Bishop, Ranking Member, House Natural Resources Committee  
The Honorable Collin Peterson, Chairman, House Agriculture Committee  
The Honorable K. Michael Conaway, Ranking Member, House Agriculture Committee  
The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio, Chairman, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, Chairwoman, House Science Committee  
The Honorable Frank Lucas, Vice Chairman, House Science Committee  
The Honorable Richard Neal, Chair, House Ways and Means Committee  
The Honorable Kevin Brady, Ranking Member, House Ways and Means Committee  
The Honorable Nita M. Lowey, Chairwoman House Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Kathy Castor, Chair, House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis  
The Honorable Garret Graves, Ranking Member, House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis