

March 15, 2021

To Members of the Texas Legislature:

Hunters and anglers have been at the forefront of the conservation movement since its inception in the late 1800's. We take great pride in that license fees collected for hunting and fishing activities fund the backbone of conservation efforts in many states, including Texas.

Over the years, Texas hunters, anglers, and boaters have contributed hundreds of millions of dollars to the Game, Fish, and Water Safety Account (GR Dedicated Fund 9). The Legislative Budget Board recently estimated this Account would maintain a balance in excess of \$125 million AFTER the agency's 2022-2023 expenditures.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is in need of a new helicopter to serve a multitude of purposes, from wildlife surveys to critical law enforcement and search and rescue duties. TPWD has requested to fund the \$6.5 million purchase price from Fund 9 (roughly 5% of the remaining balance).

Please authorize the purchase of the helicopter and put that money to work protecting and conserving the fish and wildlife resources for current and future generations of Texans.

The organizations listed below representing Texas hunters, anglers and wildlife managers fully support this use of funds that we helped contribute.

Sincerely,

Texas Foundation for Conservation
Texas Wildlife Association
Ducks Unlimited, Texas Chapter
Coastal Conservation Association
Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program
Houston Safari Club
Texas Association of Bass Clubs
Texas Black Bass Unlimited
Hill Country Quail Coalition
Safari Club International- Austin Chapter
Texas Trappers and Fur Hunters Association
National Deer Association
Audubon Texas
Dallas Safari Club
Safari Club International- Houston Chapter
Plateau Land and Wildlife
National Wild Turkey Federation
Lone Star Bowhunting Association

Texas Hawking Association
Saltwater Fisheries Enhancement Association
Mule Deer Foundation Texas Chapter
Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society
The Nature Conservancy
Central Texas Wildlife Legacy
Welder Wildlife Foundation
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Texas Chapter