

June 2, 2008

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our over 170 organizations' millions of members, we urge Congress to pass legislation that addresses the challenge of climate change by significantly reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and by providing the new investments necessary to protect America's fish, wildlife, and other natural resources in the face of this unprecedented challenge. In particular, we commend the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act (S. 3036) for including the Adaptation Programs for Natural Resources (Title VI, Subtitle D and Title XII, Subtitles C and D). These important subtitles recognize the need to incorporate climate science and policy direction into natural resources conservation planning and provide the investment in natural resources conservation necessary to address climate change's unavoidable impacts.

Climate change poses the most significant threat to the natural world ever seen in the course of human history. Scientists warn what natural resources managers, hunters, anglers, and other outdoor recreationists already know: global warming is causing serious damage and disruptions to wildlife and ecosystems. Furthermore, climate scientists predict that such harmful disturbances will accelerate and worsen. These impacts include: changes in seasonal events that disrupt fish and wildlife populations and ecological communities; melting of polar ice caps; acidification of the oceans; declining snowpack; increased drought; warming of rivers, streams, lakes and estuaries; increased threat from invasive species; habitat shifts northward and upward in elevation; and more frequent catastrophic fires.

Each of these impacts poses a serious threat to the natural resource base that supports both people and wildlife. The natural systems that provide us with drinking water, flood protection, food, medicine, timber, recreational opportunities, scenic beauty, jobs, and numerous other services are at great risk.

Addressing these challenges will require an unprecedented new investment in strategies and activities that enhance the resiliency and sustainability of fish, wildlife and their habitats to climate change. We commend S. 3036 for including the Adaptation Programs for Natural Resources which recognize the magnitude of this challenge and dedicate a portion of allowance auction proceeds in a balanced and accountable manner to fish, wildlife, and habitat conservation efforts that address global warming's impacts.

The balanced approach adopted in these subtitles direct funding to federal, state, and tribal natural resources agencies for a variety of conservation efforts, under the guidance of science-based federal or state natural resources adaptation plans. This vital funding would be used for carrying out activities, including research, education, and planning, that assist fish and wildlife and their habitats in becoming more resilient and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Adaptation activities would include providing the necessary resources for federal and state land and water managers to ensure the nation's complex network of federal and state lands, including parks and refuges, preserves, and forests, and the nation's water resources, such as estuaries, rivers, lakes and wetlands, are able to adapt to climate change's impacts. These subtitles also place special emphasis on: the protection of important habitat and species migration corridors through the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Forest Legacy Program; programs that partner with landowners

to restore and protect species on privately-owned lands; conservation of tribal lands; and coastal and estuarine habitat restoration efforts – all of which face increasing challenges due to global warming and inadequate federal, state, and tribal resources to meet those challenges. These subtitles recognize that federal, state and tribal natural resources agencies are on the front lines of conservation efforts to help fish, wildlife and ecosystems survive global warming and provide the resources those agencies desperately need to meet that challenge.

While recognizing that many of S. 3036's provisions are still being debated, this legislation represents a needed step forward in addressing the underlying causes of climate change and a strong commitment to providing the policy direction and investment needed to conserve the natural resources that fish, wildlife, and people depend upon. Given what is at risk of being lost, this investment is urgently needed. We urge Congress to pass strong climate change legislation that protects and restores our natural resources legacy - the basis of a strong and healthy society - for our children and future generations.

Sincerely,

Adirondack Council
Alaska Conservation Solutions
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Alaska Wilderness League
Albuquerque Wildlife Federation
Alliance for Sustainability
Alliance for the Great Lakes
American Bird Conservancy
American Rivers
Animal Protection of New Mexico
Animal Protection Voters
Appalachian Mountain Club
Arizona Wilderness Coalition
Arizona Wildlife Federation
Arizona Zoological Society
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Association of Zoos and Aquariums
Audubon Big Bend
Audubon Burroughs
Audubon District of Columbia
Audubon Florida
Audubon Maryland-DC
Audubon Minnesota
Audubon New Hampshire
Audubon New Jersey
Audubon New York
Audubon Ohio
Audubon Society of Forsyth County
Big Muddy Workshop, Inc
Biodiversity Conservation Alliance

Black Bear Conservation Committee
Carbon Free Girl
Center for Native Ecosystems
Center for Sustainable Environments
Chicken Dance Trail
Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Colorado Environmental Coalition
Connecticut Forest and Park Association
Conservation Committee of the Arizona
Native Plant Society
Conservation Council for Hawaii
Conservation Federation of Missouri
Defenders of Wildlife
Delaware Audubon
Delaware Greenways
Delaware Native Plant Society
Earthjustice
Environment Council of Rhode Island
Environmental League of Massachusetts
Everglades Foundation
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission
Forrest Keeling Nursery
Fresh Energy
Freshwater Future
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends of Cabeza Prieta
Friends of Rock Bridge Memorial State Park
Friends of White Clay Creek State Park

George Grant Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 Grand Canyon Wildlands Council
 Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council
 Great Old Broads for Wilderness
 Greenbelt Land Trust
 Gulf Restoration Network
 Gunstream Fishing Club
 Healing Our Waters - Great Lakes Coalition
 Highlands Coalition
 Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited
 Illinois Division, Izaak Walton League of America
 Indiana Wildlife Federation
 Izaak Walton League of America, Minnesota Division
 Kansas Wildlife Federation
 Kent County Conservancy (Delaware)
 Lake Erie Islands Chapter-Black Swamp Conservancy
 Lake Erie Region Conservancy
 Lincoln Bass Club
 Louisiana Wildlife Federation
 Minnesota Conservation Federation
 Minnesota Environmental Partnership
 Minnesota Food Association
 Minnesota Ornithologists' Union
 Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation
 Missouri Smallmouth Alliance
 Missouri State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation
 Montana Wildlife Federation
 National Audubon Society
 National Parks Conservation Association
 National Tribal Environmental Council.
 National Wildlife Federation
 Native Seed SEARCH
 Natural Resources Council of Maine
 Natural Resources Defense Council
 Nebraska Partnership for All-Bird Conservation
 Nebraska Rural Living
 Nevada Wildlife Federation
 New Jersey State Federation of Sportsman's Clubs
 New Mexico Audubon Council
 New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light
 New Mexico Land Conservancy
 New Mexico Trout
 New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
 New Mexico Wildlife Federation
 North Carolina Wildlife Federation
 Northern Jaguar Project
 Ohio Division, Izaak Walton League of America
 Ohio Environmental Council
 Ohio Ornithological Society
 Oregon Natural Desert Association
 Passaic River Coalition
 PennFuture
 Pennsylvania Interfaith Climate Change Campaign
 Pew Environment Group
 Potomac Conservancy
 Prairie Rivers Network, Illinois
 Puerto Rican Ornithological Society
 Rainwater Basin Joint Venture
 Restore America's Estuaries
 Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust
 Rio Grande Restoration
 River Alliance of Wisconsin
 River Bluffs Audubon Society
 River Valley Wildlife Federation, Arkansas
 Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
 Rocky Mountain Recreation Initiative
 San Juan Citizens Alliance
 San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council
 San Luis Valley Water Protection Coalition
 Santa Fe Interfaith Alliance for Environmental Stewardship
 Save the Scenic Santa Ritas Association
 Scenic Hudson, Inc.
 Sheep Mountain Alliance
 Sky Island Alliance
 Southern Adirondack Audubon Society
 Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition
 Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
 Southwest Consolidated Sportsman Club
 Southwest Environmental Center
 Southwest Missouri Fly Fishers
 St. Louis Audubon Society
 Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning
 Tennessee Clean Water Network
 Tennessee Teaming with Wildlife Coalition
 Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
 Texas Conservation Alliance
 The Green Center
 The Nature Conservancy
 The Nature Conservancy of West Virginia
 The Rewilding Institute
 The Trust for Public Land

The Wilderness Society
The Wildlife Society
The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
Torne Valley Preservation Association
Trout Unlimited, Valley Forge Chapter
Trout Unlimited, Wisconsin State Council
Tucson Audubon Society
Union of Concerned Scientists
Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Vermont Natural Resources Council
Virgin Islands Conservation Society
West Branch Conservation Association
West Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited
Western Lake Erie WATERKEEPER® Association
Western Nebraska Resources Council (WNRC)
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Western Resource Advocates
Wild Bird Habitat Store
Wild Farm Alliance
Wild South
WildEarth Guardians
Wilderness Workshop
Wildlands Project
Wildlife Center of Virginia
Wisconsin Teaming with Wildlife Coalition
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation