

Connecticut
Conservation

Advisory Council

American Hunting Dog
Club
Bristol Fish & Game
Coalition of CT Sportsmen
CT Audubon Society
CT Bass Nation
CT Falconers Assoc.
CT Farm Bureau
CT Fly Fishermen's Assoc.
CT Sportsmen's Alliance
CT Trappers Assoc.
CT Waterfowl Assoc.
Delta Waterfowlers
Fairfield County League of
Sportsmen's Clubs
Housatonic Fly
Fishermen's Assoc.
National Wild Turkey
Federation
New London/Windham
County League of
Sportsmen's Clubs
Northwest Connecticut
Sportsmen's Council
Nutmeg Chapter of the
Ruffed Grouse Society
Nutmeg State Council of
Sportsmen
Rockville Fish & Game
Club
Stamford Fish and Game
United Bowhunters of CT
Wallingford Rod and Gun
Club

February 13, 2018

Sean Saville
Campaign Manager
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
1100 First Street NE, Suite 825
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Saville,

The Connecticut Conservation Advisory Council (CCAC) is that body that advises the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection on conservation policy, funding and administration affecting the state's abundant and diverse fish and wildlife, and wildlife centered recreation. It is with pride I write to you on behalf of the CCAC in support of the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife's efforts to implement the recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources. This recommendation would dedicate \$1.3 billion annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to diversify funding for the conservation and management of all fish and wildlife.

A dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism is needed for many wildlife species including those that are not pursued by hunters, trappers, or anglers and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has the primary statutory responsibility for the conservation and management of all fish and wildlife in the state. The Connecticut Wildlife Action Plan addresses the needs of our state's fish and wildlife with a focus on species of greatest conservation need with defined actions necessary to prevent future endangered species listings. Where comprehensive conservation actions have been implemented, they've been proven effective for species such as the New England cottontail and the wood turtle. However, there are insufficient funds to fully implement the Plan.

Proactive conservation is a wise investment; it is good for wildlife, hunters, anglers, taxpayers, businesses, and our local communities. The *Recovering America's Fish and Wildlife Act (H.R. 4647)* would provide the resources needed for proactive conservation nationwide. It would lead to future success stories like those we are celebrating for bald eagles, wild turkeys, bobcats and fisher. Our fish and wildlife are among our most valuable resources and are an integral part of our heritage. This funding is essential to future generations and their share of this rich hunting and fishing tradition.

Sincerely,



Keith Cagle,
Chairman