

June 26, 2009

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

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Edward Markey
Chairman
House Select Committee on Energy
Independence and Global Warming
B-243 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Chairman Waxman, Chairman Markey and Chairman Peterson:

As a coalition of America's leading hunting, fishing, and conservation organizations, we thank you for the leadership that you have shown in pursuing a compromise on the America's Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (H.R. 2454) and facilitating its movement forward in the legislative process. We support H.R. 2454 for the reduction of greenhouse gases it seeks to achieve and the protection and restoration of fish and wildlife species, habitats, ecosystems, and ecological processes threatened by climate change through establishment of the Natural Resources Climate Change Adaptation Fund.

Furthermore, we appreciate the compromise reached that provides the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) oversight of the agriculture and forestry carbon dioxide offset projects – including conservation programs. We feel it is very important to build upon gains we've seen for soil, water, and wildlife conservation and make sure we can strengthen these programs that provide valuable carbon sequestration. America's farmers, ranchers and forestland owners have the potential to make great contributions to solving the climate issue, and we agree it is appropriate for the USDA to deliver these climate-based programs to private landowners.

We look forward to continuing our dialogue with you on these issues as the specifics on offset program structure, criteria, and implementation are formulated. In the end, we want to see these programs in every way complement and strengthen both the efficacy of fish and wildlife habitat conservation **and** reduction of greenhouse gasses rather than compete against each other. We would be pleased to meet with you in person to discuss this in greater detail in the future.

Again thank you for your continued leadership on this very important issue and we urge all Representatives to vote 'YES' on this bill.

Very respectfully,

American Sportfishing Association
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
BASS/ESPN Outdoors
Pheasants Forever
Quail Forever
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
The Wildlife Society
Trout Unlimited
Wildlife Management Institute