

## Conservation Coalition Comments on the Pension Protection Act of 2006

July 27, 2007

House Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee  
Congressman John Lewis, Chairman  
1136 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Lewis:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the charitable provisions of the 2006 Pension Protection Act (PPA).

The undersigned conservation, agriculture, and wildlife organizations strongly support H.R. 1576 which would make the provisions of section 1206 of the PPA permanent. This provision allows more modest-income landowners to receive appropriate tax deductions for donating valuable development rights, thereby permanently protecting publicly important natural and cultural resources on their land. In the short time since the bill's passage, this provision has greatly increased interest in and use of voluntary conservation easement donations across the country, particularly among the farmers and ranchers who own the vast majority of America's private land resources. It provides a real and effective incentive for private landowners to contribute to saving our Nation's wildlife, watersheds, working farmlands, and our scenic and historic heritage.

The donation of a perpetual conservation easement to a conservation organization is a serious and complex decision for any landowner, involving the disposition of what is usually their family's most valuable asset. It is a decision that cannot and should not be rushed by a deadline. We thank you for your co-sponsorship of H.R. 1576, and urge you to do all you can to see that it is enacted into law. We look forward to working with you and your Subcommittee on this and other issues involving the protection and conservation of our nation's natural resources.

Sincerely,

American Bird Conservancy  
American Farmland Trust  
American Fisheries Society  
American Fly Fishing Trade Association  
American Sportfishing Association  
Archery Trade Association  
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
Berkley Conservation Institute  
Boone and Crockett Club  
Bowhunting Preservation Alliance  
Civil War Preservation Trust  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
Conservation Force  
The Conservation Fund  
Ducks Unlimited  
Foundation for North American Wild Sheep  
The Humane Society of the United States  
Wildlife Land Trust  
Land Trust Alliance  
Montana Land Reliance  
National Audubon Society  
National Rifle Association  
North American Bear Foundation

Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association  
The Nature Conservancy  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
Partnership of Rangeland Trusts  
Pheasants Forever  
Piedmont Environmental Council  
Quail Forever  
Quail Unlimited  
Quality Deer Management Association  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Safari Club International  
Texas Wildlife Association  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation  
Partnership  
Trout Unlimited  
Trust for Public Land  
The Vital Ground Foundation  
Whitetails Unlimited  
Wildlife Forever  
Wildlife Management Institute  
The Wildlife Society