NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUSES

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

PRESIDENT
Senator Robin Webb, KY

VICE PRESIDENT
Representative Mark Neuman, AK

SECRETARY
Representative Brandon Phelps, IL

MEMBERS
Senator Bill Heath, GA

Representative Sal Esquivel, OR

Representative Candy Ezzell, NM

Representative Herb Frierson, MS

Representative Marc Gergely, PA

Representative Craig Miner, CT

Representative Brian White, SC

June 30, 2014

RE: Please support the Conservation Easement Incentive Act (HR 2807)

Dear Representative,

The 113th Congress has an unprecedented opportunity to benefit hunters and anglers by making The Conservation Easement Incentive Act (HR 2807) a permanent part of tax law. HR 2807 recently passed the Ways and Means Committee, and in the next few weeks we need your help to ensure Congress takes the next step and does not delay making this vital tool permanent.

As members of the Executive Council for the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), we represent a coalition of more than 2,000 state legislators dedicated to preserving our nation's outdoor heritage. Today we write to you, as a member of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, asking you to support The Conservation Easement Incentive Act.

The NASC Executive Council's role is to advance and promote conservation, hunting and angling policy at the state level. We believe that HR 2807 will go a long way to ensuring sustainable fish and wildlife habitat and providing access to the resource for our nation's sportsmen and women.

As hunters and anglers, we are well aware of the importance of having places to hunt and fish in our communities, and the role private land conservation plays. More than 70 percent of wildlife gets food and shelter from our privately owned working farms, ranches and forest lands. Unfortunately, we are losing these habitats to development at an alarming rate of 180 acres per hour.

It's not only land trusts and government agencies that depend on conservation easements to secure wildlife habitat. Sportsmen's conservation groups such as Ducks Unlimited, Mule Deer Foundation, Pheasants Forever and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation all hold easements. Ducks Unlimited, for example, holds 74 conservation easements protecting over 32,000 acres. Some of these easements protect the most critical habitat in the western flyway – a sportsmen's paradise. Likewise, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation holds 198 easements that protect almost 378,000 acres in 16 states.

A broad coalition of 30 conservation organizations including the Archery Trade Association, Boone and Crockett Club and the National Shooting Sports Foundation all support this initiative.

The Sportsmen's Voice in State Capitols
110 North Carolina Avenue, SE ~ Washington, DC 20003
202-543-6850 (p) ~ 202-543-6853 (f) ~ www.sportsmenslink.org

Thank you for your commitment to conserving our natural resources and safeguarding sportsmen's interests.

Sincerely,

Senator Robin Webb (KY)
President

Representative Mark Neuman (AK)
Vice President

Representative Brandon Phelps (IL)
Secretary

Senator Bill Heath (GA)

Representative Sal Esquivel (OR)

Representative Candy Ezzell (NM)

Representative Herb Frierson (MS)

Representative Marc Gergely (PA)

Representative Craig Miner (CT)

Representative Brian White (SC)

The Sportsmen's Voice in State Capitols
110 North Carolina Avenue, SE ~ Washington, DC 20003
202-543-6850 (p) ~ 202-543-6853 (f) ~ www.sportsmenslink.org