



House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

January 20, 2022

RE: Support for H.R. 5973, Reauthorizing the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act

Chairman Huffman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the nearly 700,000 Ducks Unlimited (DU) members nationwide, I ask that you support and swiftly pass H.R. 5973, reauthorizing the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (GLFWRA). As the World leader in wetlands and waterfowl conservation, DU utilizes a wide array of federal programs to help deliver on-the-ground habitat restoration results across North America and GLFWRA is one of the most critical. The Great Lakes region is a nationally significant landscape for fish and wildlife habitat due to the ecological significance of the region to a diversity of species, the economic value of wildlife-based activities, and the degree of habitat degradation that has occurred here. GLFWRA has been a major program for DU and other conservation partners whose missions are to put critical habitats, like wetlands, back on the landscape. To-date, DU has restored nearly 4,500 acres of wetland and associated habitats with the help of GLFWRA funding.

Past DU projects supported by GLFWRA include habitat conservation, restoration and enhancement, as well as geospatial analysis to update the National Wetland Inventory. We have accomplished a lot with GLFWRA but there remains a tremendous amount to do. Nearly all habitat conservation goals outlined in state and federal action plans remain unmet here in the Great Lakes region. All the while people are taking to our woods and waters at record rates to enjoy all that they have to offer. Therefore, swift passage of H.R. 5973 is imperative. GLFWRA is a critical tool in our conservation toolbelt and with your support and action, it will continue to be a shining example of how the investment of a taxpayer dollar into conservation can be leveraged through partnerships to make landscape-scale impacts that benefit fish, wildlife, and people.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important conservation issue.

Sincerely,

Jason Hill, Director of Conservation Programs
Great Lakes/Atlantic Region
Ducks Unlimited