



March 31, 2025

Chairman Bruce Westerman
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bruce Westerman,

Members of the North American Wetlands Conservation Council urge you to support legislation (H.R.2316) that would allow the investment interest from the Pittman-Robertson Funds (P-R Funds) to continue to be used for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund (NAWCF).

As a part of the funding for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), the earned interest from the investment of P-R Funds is deposited into NAWCF annually. These funds are used in the normal grant-making process for NAWCA. During the past ten years, the NAWCF has received an average of \$30 million per year in earned interest from the P-R Fund, though the actual amount fluctuates annually. This critical provision of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 (Pittman-Robertson Act) must be reauthorized before it expires on September 30, 2025 (the sunset of the 10-year authorization).

Under the Pittman-Robertson Act, excise taxes collected on certain hunting equipment are deposited into the P-R Fund and are available, without further appropriation, to States. The Pittman-Robertson Act requires that interest earned on balances in that fund be used to finance wetland conservation projects authorized under NAWCA. It is important to note because the interest earnings are spent without further appropriation, the Congressional Budget Office has historically determined that enacting this legislation would have no net effect on Federal spending and “scores” as revenue neutral. The interest from the P-R Funds, when matched by our growing list of partners, creates an additional \$60 million annually, for a total of \$90 million, in on-the-ground meaningful and measurable wetlands conservation. Unlike the yearly NAWCF appropriation, the Pittman-Robertson portion of the funding cannot be allocated without this important reauthorization. Furthermore, in 2024, the Association of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies passed a resolution supporting the continued flow of this interest into the NAWCF rather than to their states through the apportionment process.

Please find below signatures from non-federal Council members thanking you, in advance, for your consideration and support.

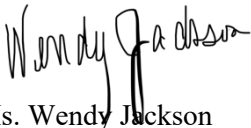
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith Camuso".

Ms. Judith Camuso, Commissioner
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and
Wildlife

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark W. Elsbree".

Mr. Mark W. Elsbree, Senior VP
Western Region, The Conservation Fund

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Jackson".

Ms. Wendy Jackson
Land Trust Alliance

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marshall Johnson".

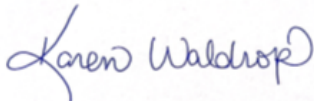
Mr. Marshall Johnson, Chief Conservation
Officer, National Audubon Society

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Leathers".

Mr. Ronald Leathers, Jr., Chief Conservation Officer
Pheasants Forever

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Straka".

Dr. Kelly Straka, Director Fish and Wildlife
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Waldrop".

Dr. Karen Waldrop, Chief Conservation Officer
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeb Williams".

Mr. Jeb Williams, Vice Chair and Director
North Dakota Game and Fish Department