



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**

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September 23, 2019

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Chairman
House Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans
and Wildlife
1331 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom McClintock
Ranking Member
House Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Water, Oceans
and Wildlife
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Huffman and Ranking Member McClintock:

On behalf of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA), the fastest growing organization that represents sportsmen and women in North America, I write you to express our support for Rep. Mike Thompson's (D-CA) North American Wetlands Conservation Extension Act (H.R. 925) and Rep. Rob Wittman's (R-VA) National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act (H.R. 1747).

H.R. 925 reauthorizes the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) until fiscal year 2024 at \$60 million annually. NAWCA is an incentivizing grant program that quadruples non-federal dollars for each federal dollar invested to protect migratory bird habitat. Since 1989, the program has conserved more than 29.8 million acres of habitat with over 2,833 grant projects.

H.R. 1747 creates a coalition of outdoor, hunting, angling, industry and other conservation organizations that work together to address the loss and depletion of fish habitat in critical waterways throughout our nation. The legislation encourages partnerships between federal and state entities and other stakeholders to conserve fish habitat and increase angling opportunities.

These bills provide necessary federal investments that leverage state and local collaboration to improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat for Northern pintails, speckled trout and other waterfowl and game species. BHA believes H.R. 925 and H.R. 1747 are essential to the health of fish and wildlife.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for the North American Wetlands Conservation Extension Act and the National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act. We look forward to working with you to advance the legislation through the House Natural Resources Committee and on the floor.

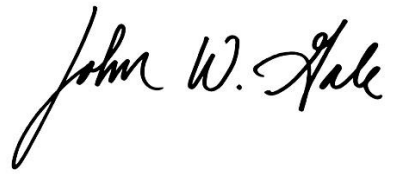


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Sincerely,



John W. Gale
Conservation Director
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Cc: Full Committee Chairman Raul Grijalva and Ranking Member Rob Bishop



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