

ALASKA COALITION OF WASHINGTON \* ALASKA CONSERVATION SOLUTIONS \* ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE \* ALASKA WILDLIFE ALLIANCE \* ALLEGHENY DEFENSE PROJECT \* AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY \* AMERICAN LANDS ALLIANCE \* AMERICAN RIVERS \* ARIZONA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE \* ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION \* ARIZONA ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY \* BERKS COUNTY CONSERVANCY \* BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION \* BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL \* CALIFORNIA OAK FOUNDATION/CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE FOUNDATION \* CENTER FOR NATIVE ECOSYSTEMS \* CENTER FOR SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVATION \* CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION \* COALITION OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RETIREES \* COALITION FOR SONORAN DESERT PROTECTION \* DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE \* EARTHJUSTICE \* EBBETTS PASS FOREST WATCH \* ENDANGERED SPECIES COALITION \* FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION \* FRIENDS OF ALASKA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES \* FRIENDS OF ASSABET NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE \* FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE \* FRIENDS OF CABEZA PRIETA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE \* FRIENDS OF CRANE MEADOWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE \* FRIENDS OF FORSYTHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE \* FRIENDS OF GREAT SWAMP NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE \* FRIENDS OF HUMBOLDT BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE \* FRIENDS OF IRONWOOD FOREST \* FRIENDS OF LAS VEGAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE \* FRIENDS OF MID COLUMBIA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES \* FRIENDS OF PONDICHERRY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE \* FRIENDS OF RACHEL CARSON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE \* FRIENDS OF ROCKHOUND STATE PARK \* FRIENDS OF SAN DIEGO WILDLIFE REFUGES \* FRIENDS OF SEAL BEACH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE \* FRIENDS OF SHERBURNE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE \* FRIENDS OF TENNESSEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE \* FRIENDS OF THE 500<sup>TH</sup> \* FRIENDS OF THE EARTH \* FRIENDS OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY \* FRIENDS OF THE RIO GRANDE NATURE CENTER \* FRIENDS OF THE TUALATIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE \* FRIENDS OF WALLKILL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE \* FRIENDS OF WERTHEIM NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE \* GREENPEACE \* HIGHLANDS COALITION \* MAIDEN CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION \* MALAMA O PUNA \* MALHEUR WILDLIFE ASSOCIATES \* MARIPOSANS FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE GROWTH \* MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM \* MONTGOMERY COUNTY LANDS TRUST \* MOSS LANDING MARINE LABORATORIES, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY \* MUSCONETCONG MOUNTAIN CONSERVANCY \* NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY \* NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST \* NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION \* NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ASSOCIATION \* NATIVE SEEDS/SEARCH \* NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL \* NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION \* NEW MEXICO TROUT \* NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS ALLIANCE \* NORTHERN JAGUAR PROJECT \* OCEAN CONSERVANCY \* OCEAN CONSERVATION RESEARCH \* OCEAN REVOLUTION \* OCEANA \* OUTDOOR ALLIANCE \* PASSAIC RIVER COALITION \* PELICAN ISLAND PRESERVATION SOCIETY \* PLANNING AND CONSERVATION LEAGUE \* PROTECT OUR WETLANDS WATER WOODS \* RAPPAHANNOCK WILDLIFE REFUGE FRIENDS \* RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES \* RESTORE: THE NORTH WOODS \* SAVE THE SCENIC SANTA RITAS \* SEQUOIA RIVERLANDS TRUST \* SIERRA AND FOOTHILL CITIZENS ALLIANCE \* SIERRA CLUB \* SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE \* SOUTHWEST CONSOLIDATED SPORTSMEN \* SOUTH EASTERN WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC. \* SOUTH YUBA RIVER CITIZENS LEAGUE \* TAMARAC INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION \* THE CITIZENS COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE THE REFUGE \* THE FRIENDS OF ARANSAS AND MATAGORDA ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE \* THE FRIENDS OF JOHN HEINZ NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AT TINICUM \* THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND \* THE UPPER ROCKAWAY RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION \* THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY \* THEODORE ROOSEVELT SOCIETY, INC. \* TISHOMINGO REFUGE ECOLOGY AND EDUCATION SOCIETY \* UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS \* UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS \* VALLEY NATURE CENTER \* WILDCOAST \* WILDLANDS PROJECT

August 1, 2007

Dear Representative,

We urge you to support comprehensive federal legislation to help America's fish and wildlife, public lands, and oceans adapt to and survive global warming. For this reason we strongly support the Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act, multi-committee legislation expected to be considered shortly by the full House. The Natural Resources Committee title of the Act, formerly H.R. 2337, includes the Global Warming Wildlife Survival Act and related provisions that collectively represent a critical first measure to mitigate global warming's impacts on fish and wildlife. We also appreciate that the Energy Independence Act takes important steps toward restoring sound stewardship to the management of our public lands, ensuring responsible and

accountable energy development, development of alternative energy sources, and planning and action to address climate change and acidification impacts on our oceans and coasts.

Wildlife is a fundamental part of America's landscape, and wildlife conservation is a core value shared by all Americans. Unfortunately, global warming poses the single greatest threat wildlife faces. To address the root cause of global warming, we must adopt significant reductions in greenhouse gases. We must also act to increase wildlife's resiliency in the face of the complex threats global warming poses, so wildlife will survive until the benefits of reductions in emissions take effect.

The Global Warming Wildlife Survival Act and other provisions in the Natural Resources Committee's title of the Energy Independence Act create a comprehensive, national framework to help address the threats global warming poses for fish and wildlife and their habitat on federal, state, tribal and private lands. The Survival Act directs the Interior Secretary, in consultation with other federal agencies, states, and the public, to establish a national strategy for assisting wildlife populations impacted by global warming, including consideration and integration of adaptation strategies in the planning and management of federal lands. Land management agencies receive the coordinated, federal scientific and management support they need to carry out their responsibilities for the nation's wildlife populations.

Federal public lands are critical to the future of wildlife in America. The federal land management agencies are together responsible for the stewardship of more than 600 million acres, more than 25% of the landmass of the United States. Federal lands contain significant areas of high-value, contiguous wildlife habitat, help protect endangered and threatened species, help prevent species from declining to the point where Endangered Species Act listings are necessary, and help keep common species common, including species valued for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities. These lands provide refuges for species impacted by the effects of global climate change and will play an important role in wildlife's ability to adapt to those impacts. But the federal land systems and the federal agencies that manage them are in fiscal crisis. These agencies currently do not have the capacity or resources to address the complex impacts of global warming on the critically-important wildlife and land resources they are charged with protecting. The Natural Resources Committee title creates an Interagency Council on Climate Change, with important responsibilities to ensure that all federal land management agencies act expeditiously to address these issues.

Federally sponsored wildlife partnership programs provide significant federal resources for conservation activities of state, tribal, and private partners. They also serve as leverage to encourage funding for wildlife conservation at every level of the national landscape. Demands for these essential partnership programs far outstrip current funding and these programs, already extremely important, will become increasingly more so as global warming accelerates threats to wildlife and habitat. These include the endangered species program and federal migratory bird programs as well as many state-federal partnership programs, such as the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, that benefit wildlife throughout the nation.

The states also play an essential role in the national effort to protect wildlife from global warming's impacts. Though the state fish and wildlife agencies only actively manage habitat on a relatively small percentage of the national landscape, their traditional leadership role managing wildlife resources takes on even greater importance with the recent completion of state comprehensive wildlife

conservation plans. These plans address wildlife populations at greatest need of conservation and provide a natural and accountable framework for coordinating conservation to protect wildlife, both game and non-game species, affected by global warming. The states currently receive federal funding to develop and implement these plans through the established State and Tribal Wildlife Grant program, which has a proven track record and provides a clear funding mechanism for tribal programs.

Under this legislation, federal funds are allocated in a balanced and equitable manner to wildlife conservation programs, at both the state and federal level, to support adaptation actions that will best increase the resiliency of fish and wildlife impacted by global warming. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service receives the resources necessary to implement federal wildlife laws and programs as well as various federal-state cost-share programs that benefit wildlife throughout the nation. Significant funding is authorized directly for states to ensure that they can play an effective role in helping wildlife adapt to global warming using their comprehensive wildlife conservation plans. Also, the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program that created those plans is permanently authorized.

The oceans and coasts are expected to be especially heavily impacted by climate change and increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide levels. Increased ocean acidity, rising sea levels, and detrimental changes to the distribution and abundance of fish, wildlife, and habitats are among some of the expected effects. Provisions in this section of the Energy Independence Act recognize the importance of the oceans in climate change and promote increased research and multi-jurisdictional planning to avoid and mitigate impacts. These provisions call on the Secretary of Commerce to draft a national strategy to address global warming's impacts on ocean and coastal ecosystems, and authorizes him to provide financial and technical assistance and training to coastal states so that they can implement plans to reduce such impacts. It also establishes a National Integrated Coastal Ocean Observation System to improve the ability to document and predict climate change's effects on oceans.

We strongly support these provisions of the Energy Independence Act because they provide the support and framework necessary to sustain wildlife against the effects of global warming, helps set America on the path toward energy independence, increases accountability in the management of federal energy resources, and spurs alternative energy development. We urge you to support these provisions and to pass the Energy Independence Act when it comes before the full House.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alaska Coalition of Washington

Allegheny Defense Project

Alaska Conservation Solutions

American Fisheries Society

Alaska Wilderness League

American Lands Alliance

Alaska Wildlife Alliance

American Rivers

Arizona Native Plant Society Conservation Committee	Friends of Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
Arizona Wilderness Coalition	Friends of Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge
Arizona Zoological Society	Friends of Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
Berks County Conservancy	Friends of Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge
Bethlehem Township Environmental Commission	Friends of Ironwood Forest
Butte Environmental Council	Friends of Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge
California Oak Foundation/California Wildlife Foundation	Friends of Mid Columbia National Wildlife Refuges
Center for Native Ecosystems	Friends of Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge
Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation	Friends of Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Friends of Rockhound State Park
Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection	Friends of San Diego Wildlife Refuges
Coalition of National Park Service Retirees	Friends of Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge
Defenders of Wildlife	Friends of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge
Earthjustice	Friends of Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge
Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch	Friends of the 500 <sup>th</sup>
Endangered Species Coalition	Friends of the Earth
Friends Committee on National Legislation	Friends of the Minnesota Valley
Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges	Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center
Friends of Assabet National Wildlife Refuge	Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge	
Friends of Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge	

Friends of Wallkill National Wildlife Refuge	Ocean Conservation Research
Friends of Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge	Ocean Revolution
Greenpeace	Oceana
Highlands Coalition	Outdoor Alliance
Maiden Creek Watershed Association	Passaic River Coalition
Malama O Puna	Pelican Island Preservation Society
Malheur Wildlife Associates	Planning and Conservation League
Mariposans for Environmentally Responsible Growth	Protect our Wetlands Water Woods
Monterey Bay Aquarium	Rappahannock Wildlife Refuge Friends
Montgomery County Lands Trust	Restore America's Estuaries
Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, California State University	RESTORE: The North Woods
Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy	Save the Scenic Santa Ritas
National Audubon Society	Sequoia Riverlands Trust
National Environmental Trust	Sierra and Foothill Citizens Alliance
National Parks Conservation Association	Sierra Club
National Wildlife Refuge Association	Sierra Nevada Alliance
Native Seeds/SEARCH	Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen
Natural Resources Defense Council	South Eastern Wildlife and Environment Education Association, Inc.
New Jersey Conservation Foundation	South Yuba River Citizens League
New Mexico Trout	Tamarac Interpretive Association
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance	The Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge
Northern Jaguar Project	The Friends of Aransas and Matagorda Island National Wildlife Refuge
Ocean Conservancy	

**The Friends of John Heinz National Wildlife  
Refuge at Tinicum**

**The Trust for Public Land**

**The Upper Rockaway River Watershed  
Association**

**The Wilderness Society**

**Theodore Roosevelt Society, Inc**

**Tishomingo Refuge Ecology and Education  
Society**

**Union of Concerned Scientists**

**Unitarian Universalist Association of  
Congregations**

**Valley Nature Center**

**WildCoast**

**Wildlands Project**