
PACIFIC FLYWAY COUNCIL

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March 29, 2017

The Honorable John Barrasso
The Honorable Tom Carper
U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rob Bishop
The Honorable Raul Grijalva
U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Barrasso, Senator Carper, Representative Bishop and Representative Grijalva:

The Pacific Flyway Council expresses its strong support for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) through both reauthorization of the program (H.R. 1099) and annual appropriations bills.

NAWCA is a long-standing program that has been extremely effective in leveraging non-federal funds to protect, restore, enhance and manage, wetland habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife. Unanimously reauthorized by Congress in 2006, NAWCA provides federal cost-share funding to support the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

NAWCA is a landmark investment which, for almost 30 years, has produced a number of economic and environmental benefits while conserving America's fish and wildlife resources. It is a private landowner-friendly, non-regulatory and incentive based program. Every federal dollar granted under NAWCA has typically been tripled by partners at the state and local levels. Since NAWCA's enactment, more than 5,600 conservation partners from small landowners to large corporations have teamed up on 2,644 projects. Federal NAWCA grants of \$1.48 billion have leveraged over \$4.34 billion in partner funds to positively affect 33.4 million acres of habitat.

NAWCA projects have been implemented all over North America, and in all 50 states. NAWCA is invaluable to the conservation of continental wetlands which play a vital role in maintaining the quality of our environment. In addition to protecting wildlife habitat, this program improves water quality and generates local revenue by increasing tourism through enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities.

NAWCA has been included in every Presidential budget since the program's inception in 1989. Congress has consistently shown strong bipartisan support for NAWCA due to the program's wide range of benefits.

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Because NAWCA provides so many important benefits for wetlands, wildlife, people and the economy, the Pacific Flyway Council respectfully asks for your strong support of H.R. 1099 to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act as well as continued robust funding of NAWCA through the appropriations process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Gardner", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Eric Gardner, Chair
Pacific Flyway Council

cc: Chairs of the Atlantic, Central, and Mississippi Flyway Councils
Congressional delegation of the Pacific Flyway states
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Hand Delivered by Ducks Unlimited, Inc.