

American Fisheries Society * Archery Trade Association * Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies * B.A.S.S LLC * Boone & Crockett Club * Catch- A- Dream Foundation
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation * Conservation Force * Dallas Safari Club
Delta Waterfowl * Izaak Walton League of America * Mule Deer Foundation * National Marine Manufacturers Association * National Shooting Sports Foundation * North American Grouse Partnership * Orion the Hunters Institute * Pheasants Forever * National Trappers' Association
Pope and Young Club * Quail Forever * Quality Deer Management Association
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation * The Nature Conservancy * Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership * Trout Unlimited * Whittails Unlimited
Wildlife Forever * Wildlife Management Institute

October 13, 2011

Honorable Senator Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
SH-713 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Senator John Thune
United States Senate
SR-493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Senator Richard Lugar
United States Senate
SH-306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Senator Richard Durbin
United States Senate
SH-711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Brown, Thune, Lugar and Durbin:

Our organizations represent millions of hunter and angler conservationists, scientists, and outdoor enthusiasts who are closely following the important debate over the upcoming Farm Bill reauthorization. We write you today to thank you for including common sense native sod conservation provisions as a part of S.1626, the Aggregate Risk and Revenue Management Act.

Farmers have long been some of the nation's foremost conservationists. As you move forward to write a new Farm Bill, it will be important to include effective economic support programs that will allow farmers to continue farming in uncertain times and ensure that farmland will not be developed for other uses that are incompatible with conservation. At the same time, it will be equally important to link those support programs to basic, sensible conservation provisions,

including sodsaver, to encourage responsible stewardship of agricultural land and direct program benefits to acreage that is most suited for crop production. With budget pressure on existing USDA conservation programs increasing, linking basic farm support programs to reasonable conservation requirements makes sense.

In conclusion, we strongly believe it is vital that the Farm Bill include effective economic support programs and that those programs be coupled with conservation compliance provisions, including, but not limited to, sod saver. Doing so will promote continued excellent stewardship of America's farmlands and foster production of crops, clean water and abundant populations of wildlife. We look forward to working with you in the coming months to achieve that goal.

Cc: Senate Agriculture Committee