

**American Fisheries Society - American Fly Fishing Trade Association
American Sportfishing Association - Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers - Berkley Conservation Institute, Pure Fishing
Bonefish and Tarpon Trust - New Mexico Wildlife Federation - North American Grouse
Partnership - Pheasants Forever - Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Trout Unlimited - Wildlife Forever - Wildlife Management Institute - The Wildlife Society**

July 29, 2010

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the thousands of sportsmen conservationist members, professional fish and wildlife managers, and professional societies we represent, we are writing to urge you to support the Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act of 2010 (CLEAR Act).

Our organizations have worked hard over the years to ensure that energy development is conducted in a manner that conserves fish and wildlife habitat and the great hunting and fishing opportunity provided by our nation's public lands and waters. The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico has demonstrated once again the adverse consequences of poorly executed energy development. We need legislation that will prevent another tragedy in the Gulf and also encourage more responsible development of our nation's energy resources, including the day to day, on the ground management of activities that may harm fish and wildlife, and the hunting and fishing sustained by those resources.

The CLEAR Act provides some valuable provisions which will improve oil and gas development offshore and onshore as well. These include the following

- Repeal of the stormwater exemption for oil and gas development from regulation under the Clean Water Act.
- Repeal of special categorical exclusions from the National Environmental Policy Act used to issue permits to the oil and gas industry
- Provision of full and dedicated funding to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), one of our best but underfunded tools for conserving intact fish and wildlife habitats and increasing recreational access to public lands.
- Establishment and funding of the Ocean Resources Conservation and Assistance Fund that would provide grants to states, tribes, and other regional entities for the conservation of marine habitats, fisheries, and their sustainable use .

These provisions are good for the Nation's fish and wildlife resources, and for sustaining sportsmen's hunting and fishing opportunities.

Finally, because of the high value of, and urgent need for, these measures, we also urge you to oppose any weakening amendments and oppose a motion that would send the bill back to the committee (Motion to Recommit).

Sincerely,

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