



American Birding Association
American Fisheries Society
American Sportfishing Association
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Defenders of Wildlife
Ducks Unlimited
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Izaak Walton League of America
National Audubon Society
National Rifle Association of America
National Wildlife Federation



National Wildlife Refuge Association
Safari Club International
The Corps Network
The Nature Conservancy
The Wilderness Society
The Wildlife Society
Trout Unlimited
U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance
Assateague Coastal Trust
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute

June 12, 2008

The Honorable Norman Dicks
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dicks:

The organizations of the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE), listed above, a broad coalition of 22 diverse wildlife, sporting, conservation, recreational, and professional organizations representing over 14 million members and supporters, thank you for your leadership in championing America's wildlife legacy by supporting \$469 million for the FY09 budget for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) National Wildlife Refuge System. We are confident your support will translate into an increased ability of the FWS to address vital wildlife and habitat needs and related public access and appreciation for America's National Wildlife Refuge System.

This \$35 million increase builds upon the remarkable \$39 million increase approved for this fiscal year, and will help the Refuge System regain its footing in achieving its core wildlife conservation and public outreach priorities.

The organizations within CARE appreciate your support and we thank you again for your leadership. Please don't hesitate to contact me, or our CARE liaison, Desiree Sorenson-Groves, at (202) 333-9075 if either of us can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Evan Hirsche
President, National Wildlife Refuge Association
for the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement