

AMERICA'S WETLAND FOUNDATION ♦ AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY ♦ AMERICAN RIVERS ♦ AMERICAN SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION ♦ AMERICAN WHITEWATER ♦ ANGLERS FOR CONSERVATION ♦ ASSOCIATION OF STATE WETLAND MANAGERS ♦ ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAMS ♦ ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ♦ BLUE FRONTIER CAMPAIGN ♦ CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN ♦ CLEAN WATER ACTION ♦ COASTAL ANGLER MAGAZINE ♦ CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION ♦ DELTA WATERFOWL ♦ DOA FISHING LURES ♦ DUCKS UNLIMITED ♦ FUR TAKERS OF AMERICA INC. ♦ GEOSPATIAL SERVICES ♦ GREAT ECOLOGY ♦ HELL'S BAY BOATWORKS ♦ HILTON POND CENTER FOR PIEDMONT NATURAL HISTORY ♦ INTERCULTURAL CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DESERTS AND OCEANS ♦ IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA ♦ MANGROVE ACTION PROJECT ♦ NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY ♦ NATIONAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER MUSEUM & AQUARIUM ♦ NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION ♦ NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION ♦ NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL ♦ NATURE ABOUNDS ♦ OCEAN MAGAZINE ♦ OUTDOOR ALLIANCE ♦ OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION ♦ PACIFIC AMERICAN FOUNDATION ♦ POLLINATOR PARTNERSHIP ♦ PURE OCEAN PRODUCTIONS ♦ QUAIL UNLIMITED ♦ REINSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA ♦ RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES ♦ RIVER NETWORK ♦ RUSHING RIVERS INSTITUTE ♦ SAVE OUR SEAS ♦ SEA TURTLE RESTORATION PROJECT ♦ SEETHEWILD ♦ THE CONSERVATION FUND ♦ THE INTERNATIONAL SEA KEEPERS SOCIETY ♦ THE OCEAN FOUNDATION ♦ THE OCEAN PROJECT ♦ THEODORE ROOSEVELT CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP ♦ TIERRA RESOURCES, LLC ♦ TROUT UNLIMITED ♦ WASTEWATER EDUCATION ♦ WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE ♦ WILDLIFE FOREVER

Dear President Obama and Congressional Leaders:

We are a diverse group of businesses and organizations representing millions of hunters and anglers, kayakers and hikers, birders and fish and wildlife professionals and others who are united by our passion and commitment to restoring our coasts, estuaries, rivers, and lakes. Restoring and protecting these areas must be a top national priority. Please reject further funding cuts to the programs that provide the critical capital for the on-the-ground restoration of our environment and economy.

We are deeply concerned that the very high-level discussions about how to control and reduce the federal deficit are not recognizing the tremendous value of keeping our nation's coastal, bay, river, and lake resources healthy for local communities, outdoor recreation, and all the industries these resources support. The nation's coasts, lakes, and rivers are critical to Americans' lives, livelihoods, and property. When healthy and sustainably managed, these areas support and protect countless commercial and recreational opportunities, from shipping and energy development, to fishing, hunting, and kayaking. Because of their abundance, beauty, and ability to support and protect human populations, the majority of Americans choose to live and work near these special places. However, ever-increasing demands placed on these areas have resulted in substantial habitat loss and other damage requiring restoration efforts to reverse these trends.

Restoration programs taking place along our nation's great waters, such as the Chesapeake Bay, Everglades, Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico, Long Island Sound, Mississippi River, Puget Sound, and San Francisco Bay, to name a few, are also helping to create jobs which benefit local and regional economies that generate more than half the nation's GDP. A recent study of various projects, completed by the Department of Commerce, determined that nearly 17 jobs are created per \$1 million invested in restoration projects, several times more than the number created in "grey" infrastructure industries. These projects are labor-intensive and require workers with a

broad set of skills—from chemists and biologists to information technology specialists and construction workers, ecologists, and helicopter pilots. In addition, the resulting cleaner water and more abundant habitats indirectly support further job creation in local economies by improving land values, supporting commercial fishing, improving tourism, and creating new business, and recreational opportunities.

Specifically, we ask you to be decisive, fair, and balanced in your approach to prevent any further funding cuts to critical restoration programs, such as the:

- Environmental Protection Agency’s Geographic Programs and National Estuary Program
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Community-based Restoration Program
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Coastal Program (and other Department of the Interior restoration priorities)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ ecosystem restoration projects

A sustained investment in restoration funding is required to keep projects on track to achieve long-term restoration goals and sequestration spells disaster for the communities, waters, and economies that rely on these programs.

We urge you to make habitat restoration a top priority by preventing further funding cuts to the programs that protect and restore critical coastal, estuarine, and freshwater habitat. These special places are the natural life-blood of our country and must be restored to ensure benefits to the economy and future generations.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

America's WETLAND Foundation
American Fisheries Society
American Rivers
American Sportfishing Association
American Whitewater
Anglers for Conservation
Association of State Wetland Managers
Association of National Estuary Programs
Association of State Floodplain Managers
Blue Frontier Campaign
Chicago Botanic Garden
Clean Water Action
Coastal Angler Magazine
Conservation Law Foundation
Delta Waterfowl
DOA Fishing Lures
Ducks Unlimited
FUR TAKERS OF AMERICA. INC.

GeoSpatial Services
Great Ecology
Hell's Bay Boatworks
Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History
Intercultural Center for the Study of Deserts and Oceans
Izaak Walton League of America
Mangrove Action Project
National Audubon Society
National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nature Abounds
OCEAN Magazine
Outdoor Alliance

Outdoor Industry Association
Pacific American Foundation
Pollinator Partnership
Pure Ocean Productions
Quail Unlimited
Reinsurance Association of America
Restore America's Estuaries
River Network
Rushing Rivers Institute
Save Our Seas
Sea Turtle Restoration Project
SEetheWILD
Shaker Lakes Garden Club
The Conservation Fund
The International SeaKeepers Society
The Ocean Foundation
The Ocean Project
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Tierra Resources, LLC
Trout Unlimited
WasteWater Education
Waterkeeper Alliance
Wildlife Forever

Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest -
Clermont, KY
Branford Land Trust - Branford, CT
Brier Wildlife Habitat Project, National
Wildlife Federation - Brier, WA
Brookfield Zoo - Brookfield, IL

**REGIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL
ORGANIZATIONS**

1000 Friends of Florida - Tallahassee, FL
3PR, People for Protecting Peace River, Inc. -
Wauchula, FL
A & T Wildlife Management Services -
Indianapolis, IN
Alico, Inc. - Ft Myers, FL
Alliance for the Great Lakes - Chicago, IL
American Littoral Society - Highlands, NJ
Arkansas Wildlife Federation - Little Rock,
AR
Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) -
Barnstable, MA
Atlantic Salmon Federation - Brunswick, ME
Audubon Florida - Miami, FL
Audubon Maryland-DC - Baltimore, MD
Audubon New York - Albany, NY
Audubon of Southwest Florida - Ft. Myers, FL
Audubon of the Everglades - West Palm
Beach, FL
Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Prog. -
Thibodaux, LA

Buckeye Brook Coalition - Warwick, RI
Buzzards Bay Coalition - New Bedford, MA
Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association -
LaBelle, FL
Calusa Group - Sierra Club - Estero, FL
Center for a Sustainable Coast - Saint Simons
Island, GA
Central Coast Land Conservancy - Depoe
Bay, OR
Chesapeake Bay Foundation - Annapolis, MD
Chesapeake Bay Trust - Annapolis, MD
Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage - Easton, MD
Chester River Association - Chestertown, MD
Chicago Zoological Society - Brookfield, IL
Citizen's for Pennsylvania's Future
(PennFuture) - Harrisburg, PA
Citizens Campaign for the Environment -
Farmingdale, NY
City of Edgewood - Edgewood, WA
Clean Water Action - Minnesota -
Minneapolis, MN
Clearwater - Beacon, NY

Coal Creek Watershed Coalition - Crested Butte, CO
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana - Baton Rouge, LA
Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program - Corpus Christi, TX
Cobblestone Gardens Inc. - Seattle, WA
Connecticut Land Conservation Council - Rockfall, CT
Conservation Northwest - Bellingham, WA
Crescent Valley Alliance - Gig Harbor, WA
DC Environmental Network - Washington, DC
Delaware Inland Bays Foundation, Inc. - Dover, DE
Delaware Nature Society - Hockessin, DE
Delaware River Greenway Partnership - Erwinna, PA
Delaware Wild Lands - Odessa, DE
Ding Darling Wildlife Society - Sanibel, FL
Division of Aquatic Resources - - Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources - Lihue, HI
DU and Pheasants Forever - Cherokee, IA
EarthCorps - Seattle, WA
Ecosystem Management Consultants - Center Sandwich, NH
Eel River Watershed Association - Plymouth, MA
Eight Towns and the Greaty Marsh Committee - Haverhill, MA
Endangered Habitats League - Los Angeles, CA
Environmental Council, Fenwick II. - Fenwick, DE
Environmental Design Collaborations - St Petersburg, FL
Firends of Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge - Olympia, WA
Florida Association of Native Nurseries - Melbourne, FL
Florida International University - Miami, FL
Florida Sport Fishing Association - Cape Canaveral, FL
Florida Wildlife Federation - Tallahassee, FL
Flower Hill Association - MANHASSET, NY
Fredericksburg-Rappahannock Chapter, Izaak Walton League - Spotsylvania, VA
Freshwater Future - Petoskey, MI
Friends of Dyke Marsh - Fairfax County, VA
Friends of Pondicherry - Jefferson, NH
Friends of Rookery Bay - naples, FL
Friends of Skagit Beaches - Anacortes, WA
Friends of St. Sebastian River - Sebastian, FL
Friends of the Bay - Oyster Bay, NY
Friends of the Mississippi River - St. paul, MN
Friends of the Moshassuck - Providence, RI
Friends of the Refuge Headwaters - Winona, MN
Friends of the Santa Clara River - Newbury Park, CA
Friends of the Upper Delaware River - Hancock, NY
Friends of Trinity River Refuge - Dayton, TX
Galveston Bay Foundation - Webster, TX
Gathering Waters Conservancy - Madison, WI
Genesee Valley Audubon Society - Rochester, NY
Georgia River Network - Athens, GA
Great Lakes Committee-Izaak Walton League of America - Bloomington, MN
Great Lakes Forest Alliance - St. Paul, MN
Great Lakes United - Amherst, NY
Great Land Trust - Anchorage, AK
Great Peninsula Conservancy - Bremerton, WA
Great Swamp Conservancy, Inc. - Canastota, NY
Groundwork Anacostia River DC - Washington, DC
Gulf of Maine Restoration Coalition - Bath, ME
Gulf of Mexico Foundation - Corpus Christi, TX
Gulf Restoration Network - New Orleans, LA
Hawai'i Wildlife Fund - Paia, HI
Hawaii Audubon Society - Honolulu, HI
HeartLands Conservancy - Mascoutah, IL
Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee - Syosset, NY
High Country Citizens' Alliance - Crested Butte, CO
Hilltown Anti-Herbicide Coalition - Ashfield, MA
Hoosier Environmental Council - Indianapolis, IN
Houston Wilderness - Houston, TX

Indiana State Council of Pheasants Forever - Selma, IN
 Inland Bay Foundation - Dagsboro, DE
 Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation - Des Moines, IA
 Iowa Woodland Owners - Springville, IA
 Izaak Walton League Fred-Rapp Chapter - Fredericksburg, VA
 Izaak Walton League of America -- Minnesota Division - Gaithersburg, MD
 Jones River Watershed Association - Kingston, MA
 Kalamazoo River Cleanup Coalition - Kalamazoo, MI
 Kansas Wildlife Federation - Wichita, KS
 Katy Prarie Conservancy - Houston, TX
 Kentucky Resources Council - Frankfort, KY
 Lake Champlain Committee - Burlington, VT
 Lake Erie Region Conservancy - Erie, PA
 Lake Erie Waterkeeper Inc - Toledo, OH
 Land Trust of Arkansas - Little Rock, AR
 Lummi Island Heritage Trust - Lummi Island, WA
 Lynnhaven River NOW - Virginia Beach, VA
 Marine Resources Council - Palm Bay, FL
 Maryland Coastal Bays Program - Ocean City, MD
 Maryland Conservation Council - Baltimore, MD
 Mass Audubon - Boston, MA
 Massachusetts Rivers Alliance - Boston, MA
 Mattawoman Watershed Society - Bryans Road , MD
 Mattole Restoration Council - Petrolia, CA
 Mendocino Land Trust - Fort Bragg, CA
 Michigan League of Conservation Voters - Ann Arbor, MI
 Michigan United Conservation Clubs - Lansing, MI
 Michigan Wildlife Conservancy - Bath, MI
 Milwaukee Riverkeeper - Milwaukee, WI
 Minnesota Conservation Federation - St. Paul , MN
 Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League of America - Saint Paul, MN
 Minnesota Environmental Partnership - Saint Paul, MN
 Mississippi River Corridor - Tennessee - Memphis, TN
 Mobile Baykeeper - Mobile, AL
 Morro Bay National Estuary Program - Morro Bay, CA
 Mukilteo Wildlife Habitat Project - Mukilteo, WA
 Muskegon River Watershed Assembly (MI) - Big Rapids, MI
 Mystic River Watershed Association - Arlington, MA
 Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District - Jericho, NY
 National Committee for the New River - West Jefferson, NC
 Naturaland Trust - Greenville, SC
 Nature Quebec - Quebec, Qc
 Nebraska Environmental Trust - Lincoln, NE
 Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society - Ceresco, NE
 Neighborhood Network News - Cedar Rapids, IA
 Neighbors of the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia - Silver Spring, MD
 New Jersey Audubon Society - Bernardsville, NJ
 New York - New Jersey Trail Conference - Mahwah, NJ
 New York State Conservation Council - Ilion, NY
 North and South Rivers Watershed Association - Norwell, MA
 North Carolina Coastal Federation - Ocean, NC
 North Shore Audubon Society - Port Washington, NY
 Northeast Organic Farming Association- Interstate Council - Stillwater, NY
 Northwest Watershed Institute - Port Townsend, WA
 Oak Brook Chapter of Trout Unlimited - Oak Brook, IL
 OceanPeople Resources - Hilo, HI
 Ohio Division IWLA - Loveland, OH
 Ohio Environmental Council - Columbus, OH
 Ohio River Foundation - Cincinnati, OH
 Ohio Wetlands Association - Amherst, OH
 Ohio Wetlands Association - Amherst, OH
 Oregon Habitat Joint Venture - West Linn, OR
 Outside Las Vegas Foundation - Las Vegas, NV

PA Council of Trout Unlimited - Bellefonte, PA
Pamlico-Tar River Foundation - Washington, NC
Partnership for the Delaware Estuary - Wilmington, DE
Passaic River Coalition - Morristown, NJ
Pelican Island Audubon Society - Sebastian, FL
Pembroke Watershed Association - Pembroke, MA
Pennsylvania Council of Churches - Harrisburg, PA
People For Puget Sound, A Program of Washington Environmental Council - Seattle, WA
Portneuf Valley Audubon Society - Pocatello, ID
Prairie Rivers Network - Champaign, IL
Putnam Co.Federation of Sportsman Clubs - Carmel, NY
Reef Relief - Key West, FL
Responsible Growth Management Coalition - Fort Myers, FL
RI Chapter, Citizens Climate Lobby - Jamestown, RI
Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami - Miami, FL
Russian Riverkeeper - Healdsburg, CA
San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Non-Government Partners - San Francisco Bay Area, CA
San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy - Houston, TX
Savage River Watershed Association - Frostburg, MD
Save The Bay - Providence, RI
Save The Bay - San Francisco - Oakland, CA
Save the Dunes - Michigan City, IN
Save The River / Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper - Clayton, NY
Save the Sound, A Program of CT Fund for the Environment - New Haven, CT
SC Conservation Credit Exchange - Huntersville, NC
Scenic Hudson - Poughkeepsie, NY
School Sisters of St. Francis - Milwaukee, WI
Serpentine Art and Nature Commons, Inc. - Staten Island, NY

Shaker Lakes Garden Club - Cleveland, OH
Shaw Nature Reserve - Gray Summit , MO
Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association - Newcastle, ME
Sierra Club Central Florida Group - Sarasota, FL
Skagit Audubon Society - Mount Vernon, WA
Snook and Gamefish Foundation - Sanford, FL
South Branch Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Coalition - La Plume, PA
South Florida Audubon Society - Fort Lauderdale, FL
St Louis River Alliance - Duluth, MN
St. Johns River Alliance - Jacksonville Beach, FL
St. Mary's River Watershed Association - St. Mary's City, MD
Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District - Riverhead, NY
Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association - Duluth, MN
Tampa Bay Watch, Inc. - St. Petersburg, FL
Tapteal Greenway Association - RICHLAND, WA
Ten Mile River Watershed Council - East Providence, RI
The East Norwich Civic Association - East Norwich, NY
The Nature Institute - Godfrey, IL
The Oblong Land Conservancy - Pawling, NY
TimesFlynn Charters - Ft. Myers, FL
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council - Petoskey, MI
Upper Tohickon Watershed Association - Quakertown , PA
Village of Flower Hill - Manhasset, NY
Village of Port Washington North - Port Washington, NY
Waccamaw RIVERKEEPER® - Conway, SC
Washington Water Trails Association - Seattle, WA
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition - Seattle, WA
Washington Wildlife Federation - Bellevue, WA
Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay - Traverse City , MI
Weeks Bay Foundation - Fairhope, AL

West Virginia Rivers Coalition - Elkins, WV
Westfield River Watershed Association -
Westfield, MA
Wild Virginia - Charlottesville, VA
Wildlife Mississippi - Stoneville, MS
Winnemem Wintu Tribe - Redding, CA
Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association -
Ambler, PA
Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association -
Hope Valley, RI
Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council -
Providence, RI