

Minnesota Association of Conservation Professionals



An independent association of current or former resource or conservation professionals whose mission is to promote science-based stewardship of natural resources including air, water, land, native plants, fish, and wildlife and to support aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems

October 6, 2010

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

The Minnesota Association of Conservation Professionals (MNACP) is writing in strong support of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act (S. 1214) and (H.R. 2565) and request that you sign on as a co-sponsor of this important legislation and support its passage into law.

As you know, Minnesota is fortunate to have many important freshwater resources that are a vital part of the quality of life in our state. In 2008, Minnesota voters overwhelmingly supported the Conservation Legacy Amendment to protect and improve our state's land and water resources for the next 25 years. MNACP has been organized for 48 years promoting science-based stewardship and partnerships that work to protect wildlife and aquatic resources. This effort has enabled agencies and organizations to develop and implement aquatic habitat programs that improve fish populations. Minnesota fishing opportunities generates an important economic engine to our region, as well as providing recreational, commercial, and social benefits towards tourism of our great natural resources.

The National Fish Habitat Conservation Act will for the first time establish a national framework for freshwater and coastal habitat protection, restoration and enhancement. By establishing a national program to support a series of regional Fish Habitat Partnerships, this legislation will focus the attention, resources and expertise of the many public and private agencies and organizations working on freshwater and coastal habitat conservation in a way that allows us to be even more effective in conserving and protecting these vital resources.

The National Fish Habitat Conservation Act (S. 1214/H.R. 2565) implements the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, a national framework developed jointly by the states, federal agencies, business and the angling and conservation community that lays out a clear set of national goals and objectives for protecting, restoring and enhancing aquatic habitats on a national scale. Modeled after the highly successful North American Wetlands Conservation Act, this legislation will bring a strategic, science-based and action-oriented approach to freshwater and coastal habitat conservation and provide vital resources to support these efforts and leverage other public and private resources.

We urge you to support this bill and to work to see the swift passage of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act. We'd welcome the opportunity to assist you with visits to fish habitat projects in Minnesota so that you may see the important work underway and how this national effort will benefit us, our community, and Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Ray Valley
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