

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 22, 2008

Dear Colleague:

The bipartisan leadership of the Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus asks that you take a moment to read the attached report, *Restoring America's Wildlife Refuges 2008*. The report was prepared by the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement, a diverse coalition of 21 conservation, recreation, sporting, and scientific organizations.

America is blessed with an astounding diversity and abundance of wildlife, and the Refuge System has been the core of our commitment to maintaining this American treasure for over a century. With a refuge in every state, nearly 40 million Americans enjoy visiting the Refuge System each year, and their recreation generates billions of dollars of economic activity. Just over ten years ago, Congress reaffirmed America's commitment to strengthen this conservation network with the passage of the 1997 National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act. Today, however, years of accumulating debts are driving the Refuge System to the brink of collapse.

Restoring America's Wildlife Refuges 2008 details the nationwide impact of funding shortfalls on the ground in our National Wildlife Refuge System, illustrates some of the deteriorating conditions present in national wildlife refuges, outlines the consequences of under-funding, and recommends an appropriate funding level for the system and a target for Fiscal Year 2009 that builds on the increase achieved in FY2008.

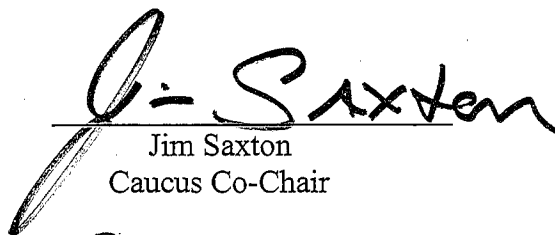
We hope you find the information included in the report useful and illuminating. To learn more about what is happening to the wildlife refuges in your state, go to www.fundrefuges.org/CARE/StateFunding.html.

For more information or to join the Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus, please contact David DeGennaro in Rep. Kind's office at 5-5506 or Andy Saxton in Rep. Saxton's office at 5-4765.

Sincerely,



Ron Kind
Caucus Co-Chair



Jim Saxton
Caucus Co-Chair



Mike Thompson
Caucus Vice Chair



Michael Castle
Caucus Vice Chair